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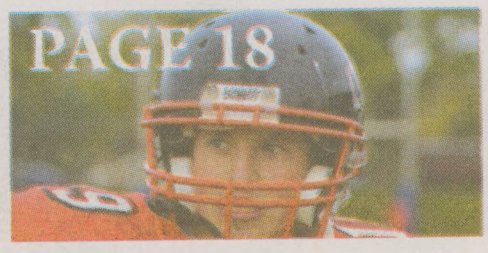

UVSS board feels heat for SUB party anarchy

'I am ashamed of the board that night,' says Director of Services Mark Chandler

by Matthew Gauk
with files from Steve Carey

The UVic Students' Society (UVSS) board of directors is drawing up a letter of apology to society staff this week after staff and their union representative complained at the Oct. 16 board meeting that the SUB party was a dangerous working environment.

The complainants sketched out an entirely different SUB party than the one previously reported. A number of intoxicated board members who volunteered to work the gates abused their positions by not ripping tickets and giving them away to their friends, possibly for resale, or by letting friends in without tickets.

The party originally sold out with 2,200 tickets, but some staff members estimate that the number of students at the party ranged from 2,600 to 2,800. One hundred extra wristbands were given away.

Security was pulled away from the perimeter to deal with problems in the building due to overcrowding, which resulted in even more people sneaking in. Security had to deal with a "giant riot" outside of Vertigo, where security members were pushed over and glass was broken, doors to bathroom stalls were ripped off, beer and other goods were stolen, and attendees refused to leave the building when the fire alarm was pulled.

SUB staff member Leslie Bootle presented the board with a petition letter, signed by 21 other staff members, asking for the resignations of those board members responsible. She described being inside the building when partygoers began pounding on the windows and demanding to be let back in, calling it "terrifying."

"We had someone who was outside pressing the wheelchair access door, which is the automatic door that opens outwards, and it was crushing people. It was horrible," said Bootle. "They couldn't find enough staff until the day before because no one on staff wants to work this event; it's a huge pain."

The union representing UVSS employees has filed a grievance against the UVSS board. Local President Scott McRitchie made a presentation to the board outlining the union's demands and the board's legal responsibilities under legislation such as the Labour Code to ensure a safe workplace. Of the four resolution recommendations the union made to the board—having a union presentation to the board, officially acknowledging safety violations, promising a safer work environment and having the corrupt and intoxicated members resign—the board has so far only undertaken one (having a union rep make a presentation).

"Our union takes this very seriously," McRitchie said, adding that the actions of board members contributed to a dangerous situation for the public, staff, volunteers and the service providers the UVSS hired to operate the party.

There were 29 professional security members hired for the party this year, in addition to 17 volunteer UVSS student staff security, eight police officers and seven Campus Security people. Director of Services Mark Chandler organized the event and consulted with Campus Security, the Saanich police and fire departments and the Victoria Liquor Board. He said they were satisfied with the security measures in place and made minimal changes from last year's arrangement.

WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

UVSS staff have said that they will be satisfied with nothing less than the resignations of those board members responsible.

"We were more prepared for this SUB party than we were for any in the past," said Bootle, who placed the blame on "dishonest volunteers" at the front gates and their "internal corruption."

According to Chandler's report on the SUB party, UVSS staff were put in a position of undue stress and their safety was compromised. The UVSS has lost its special-events liquor licence for the time being, and as a result, Beerfest has been cancelled.

"I am ashamed of the board that night," said Chandler.

A number of other board members sounded off on the controversy as well.

"If we can't trust each other to run future events," said director-at-large Janet Shivas. "How can students trust us?"

"I really want to see those board members who haven't made [a] public step forward and take responsibility for their actions," said UVic Pride Rep Jonny Morris.

The only board member to make an admission of guilt at the meeting was director-at-large Alex Chang, but that was only for missing his shift as a volunteer.

Chandler recommended in his report that there not be another party next year. Bootle agreed.

"It's not worth it [to have another SUB party]," she said. "We had reports of security staff coming up the bar manager and saying, 'I don't feel comfortable working security; I want to be sent home.' This is how serious it was."

UVSS chairperson Penny Beames was at the SUB party as a volunteer working at the door and noticed some of the bad behaviour.

"I did my best to ensure that everyone [who] came through showed me a proper ticket," Beames said, adding that since she's only five foot two and that she was there just as a volunteer, it wasn't really her responsibility to try to enforce the rules.

Beames is concerned about possible damage to the UVSS's relationship with the Saanich police and fire departments and the Victoria Liquor Board, but she is confident that the board can address the issue and make amends.

The board was encouraged to discuss resolution of the matter at the private session of the next meeting on Oct. 30. Beames was unwilling to speculate on what the board will do next other than draw up a letter of apology.

Planning for the September SUB party usually begins in May, and if the UVSS decides not to have another one next year, a motion will have to be brought to the board. Chandler said that if they decide against having a party next year, future boards would still be able to reverse that decision.

"I think the safety of students needs to be more important than whether or not they have a SUB party to expect," Beames said. "We can plan similar parties of a smaller nature that will allow students with that kind of an outlet without them being so large that they invite the disarray that occurred."

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After-hours fight brings safety into question

Saanich police are investigating after a student was severely beaten on Ring Road following confrontation at Felicita's Pub

by Micah Luxen

A UVic student received severe head injuries and a broken jaw after he was attacked outside Felicita's Pub earlier this month.

On Oct. 5, two opposing groups of young adults left Felicita's, the student-run pub, taking an ensuing argument to a Ring Road crosswalk adjacent to the University Centre.

It was here that spectator Mark Gorman was punched to the point of unconsciousness.

The police report, a collaboration of witness statements, confirmed that Gorman was not a part of the fight when he was suddenly attacked.

"The group ran at him, and all Mark remembers is the attackers shouting, 'You're not running fast enough,'" said Gorman's mother, Caroline Gorman, who spoke on behalf of her son.

Saanich Police received several calls at approximately 1:20 a.m. regarding two large groups of males fighting.

One caller reported, "'One male has been punched in the face and is lying unconscious on the ground and is bleeding from the head,' which put emergency services on route," said Sgt. John Price, public information officer for the Saanich Police.

Police arrived, and upon locating the groups, which were yelling at each other, immediately separated them. Campus Security arrived shortly after.

According to the police report, the conflict began earlier at Felicita's Pub.

One group, identified as Group A, reported that a female they knew told them a group of males were harassing her and had slapped her. The group of males, Group B, stated that this same female had slapped them. Group B stated that as they left Felicita's, Group A followed them and shouted that they weren't moving fast enough. Group A then ran after Group B and the two groups confronted. Group B reported that Group A started throwing punches first.

When individually questioned by police, however, each suspect denied having punched anyone or getting into a fight. Instead, members of Group A claimed they were having issues with Group B based on the information they had received from the female.

Despite the fact that police found over 15 people at the scene of the fight, Gorman was one of the only two victims at the scene. The other victim, UVic student Jordan Palmer, was allegedly a part of Group B and received a cut under the eye due to a punch to the face. Both men were taken to Royal Jubilee Hospital for medical attention.

Gorman was released from the hospital Oct. 15 but said he is still in a lot of pain.

"His broken jaw has been wired, he has a fractured skull, a blood clot on one side of his brain, as well as swelling in the brain, a fractured cheek, and pain in the spine," said Caroline. "We haven't even addressed the issue of going back to school yet; we're too wrapped up in all the medical issues."

The Gorman family is very concerned that such an assault could happen at UVic.

"Who were these people?" asked Caroline. "Were they students of the university? And if not, why were they at the university in the first place?"

At press time, police were not releasing any information regarding the people involved in the fight. Earl Weidner, however, a bouncer at Felicita's, confirmed that non-students do frequent the pub.

"A lot of times, one or more of the people involved in fights have not been from UVic, but I think [Felicita's] is trying to cut down on that," said Weidner. "There's a new rule that you have to have a UVic ID to get in and you can bring one guest."

But whether they involve students or not, fights are not a new phenomenon at the pub.

"I remember last year we were throwing more people out for fighting when the bar was open, only now, more people are fighting after closing so that we're having fewer problems in the bar," said Weidner.

The pub is responsible for the safety of customers, even after they leave the pub, but what that requires of the pub isn't clear.

"We are responsible to get people home safely, but we don't have the same kind of legal rights once people leave the facility," said Weidner. "Although I think anyone can make a citizen's arrest, it's kind of a grey area and I guess what should happen is that Campus Security should be called up."

While Campus Security and the police were called up immediately, according to Weidner, who worked that evening, a couple of bouncers from Felicita's were the first on the scene.

"Apparently some of the guys caught wind that something was going to be happening, with all the bickering, and so they were way out there and kind of broke the fight up somewhat."

Caroline went on to question security in light of this month's events.

"If there are usually fights when the bar closes, why isn't security there?"

The incident was the second after-hours assault case outside Felicita's reported this year.

"We try to prevent [problems] with the presence of security by showing our colours, but we don't have the same powers of arrest, search, and seizure as a police officer, for obvious reasons," said Pete Zacour, director of Campus Security Services. "We don't have the right to get into a fight and break it up; [security members] can do so if they're so inclined but there's no authority for them to do it."

Zacour believes Campus Security's most important reaction to assaults on campus is to notify police.

The director went on to argue that over-consumption of alcohol is the real issue to be considered, a sentiment with which Price agreed.

"Anytime there is alcohol involved, the situation is unpredictable and can quickly escalate; alcohol and inflamed emotions are a recipe for disaster," said Price.

Zacour admitted that preventing assults is a continual challenge.

"Your guess is as good as mine," said Zacour. "Stop serving alcohol in the bar [or] close down the SUB. But that's not viable and it's not going to be very well received."

Two weeks after the assault, charges have still not been laid. But each member of Group A was identified by photo ID on scene by police, and the entire matter is under investigation.

"It is likely charges will be forthcoming, but when everyone has been identified, there is no urgency in the laying of charges," said Price.

The Gormans are concerned with the initial lack of action.

"[The police] are taking their time," said Caroline. "It's Mark's right as a victim to know who has done this to him."

Caroline went on to say that the police have refused an invitation to come to the house to speak with Mark and were not forthcoming with information during an initial visit at the hospital.

"Mark keeps saying, 'Why would people do this to me?' You couldn't meet a more mild-mannered boy," said Caroline.

"He's a soccer player, he coaches a youth soccer team and he is a good student. [He is] just an all-around good boy."

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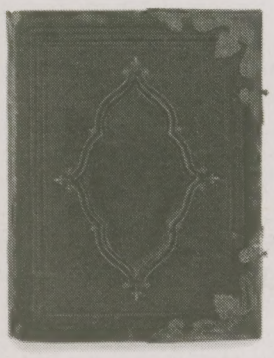

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Thursday, 2 November, 7:30 p.m.
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Keith Ward is Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus at the University of Oxford and one of Britain's foremost commentators on Christian belief and doctrine in the context of modern science and the world faith traditions. His publications include *Re-thinking Christianity* (2007); *God: A Guide for the Perplexed* (2002); and *Religion and Community* (2000), the final in an acclaimed four-volume series on comparative theology.

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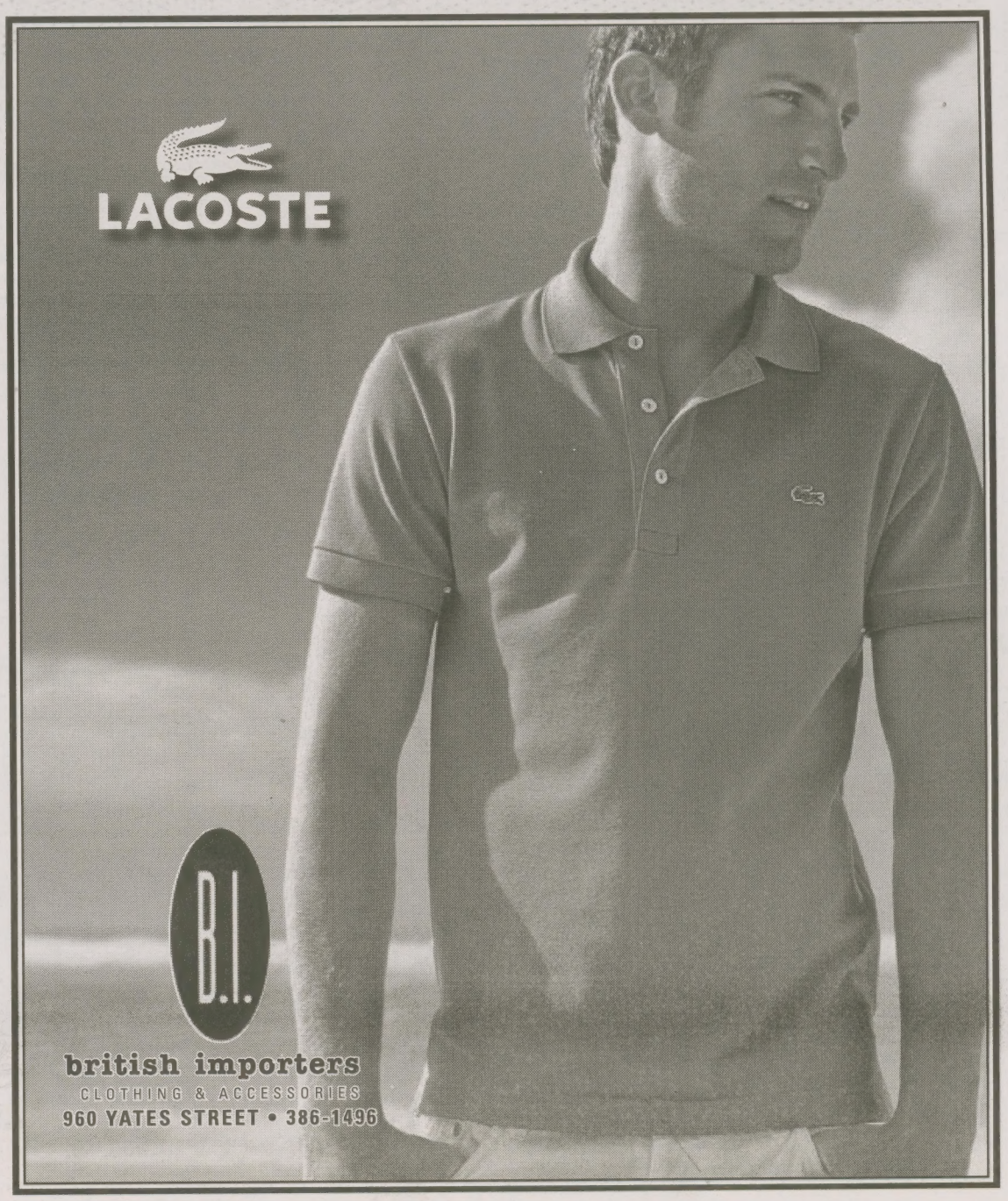


A Layton love-in: NDP leader visits

by Matthew Gauk

The NDP leader, surrounded by tight-shirted and party-pinned fans, noticed the confused look on the face of the young male supporter he embraced and pronounced in barking baritone that this was "a hugging party."

Layton went over some of his key criticisms during a speech at the David Lam Auditorium on Oct. 12 as a part of a cross-country university tour. He played to his audience, citing crushing student debt and a lack of federal investment in post-secondary education.

"I've been teaching in the post-secondary system for about 35 years, and I've noticed a change in my students," said Layton, who holds a PhD in political science and has taught at several universities. "They're falling asleep a lot more often in my classes, and I'd like to believe that's not because of the lectures. It's because students today ... are having to do an awful lot more part-time and sometimes even full-time work over and above their studies just to keep their head above water financially."

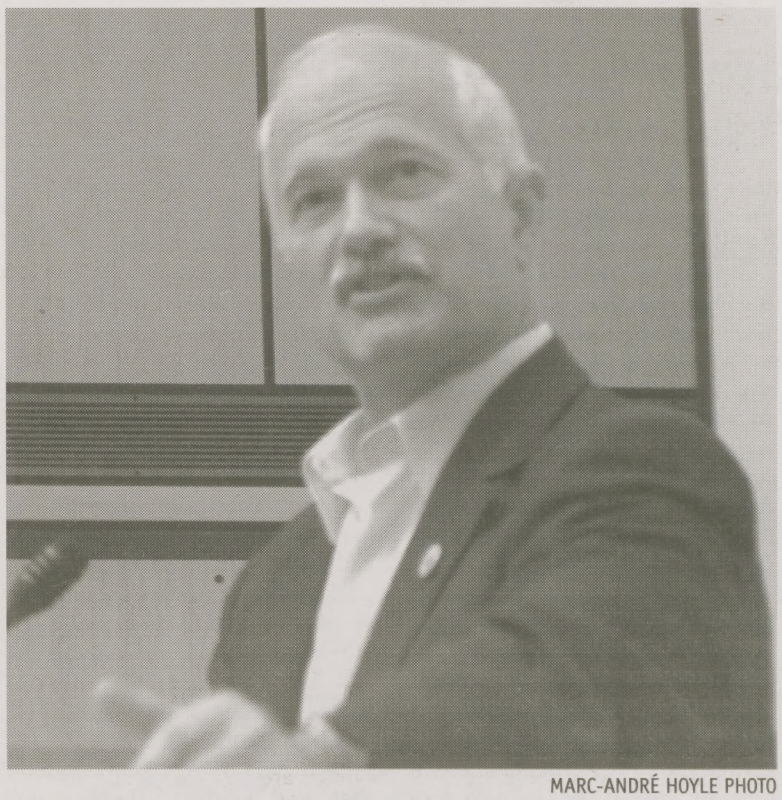
Thirty years ago it was unusual to find a student working more than 15 hours a week outside the classroom, according to Layton. As a result, they were able to focus on their schoolwork and involvement in campus life through various clubs. These days it's increasingly difficult for students to do just that because stress and debt is building up, he said. The government is transferring the national debt onto the shoulders of individual students just when they're getting ready to enter the workforce.

"I've been racking my brain to think of any other species on the planet that would do something analogous," Layton said. "I think of birds, when there's a young bird getting ready to fly from the nest. I don't know any bird species that hangs a rock around the neck of said young bird."

Students studying a particular topic, say early childhood or social work, move on from school and find themselves unable to pay off their student debt while working in their chosen field. They have to go into different lines of work in order to make enough money, and they can't find jobs in their hometowns, Layton said, adding that this doesn't make any sense. He compares this to the situation in places like China, where the country is investing in the education of young people. With 325,000 engineers graduating this year alone, China will be able to take the lead in producing more efficient renewable energy and developing new technology in green automobiles, for example.

"If we don't get in the forefront, someone else will," said Layton. "In other words, our economy will begin to suffer because we forgot to invest in being in the leading edge of innovation, and the place that starts is in universities and colleges and training programs."

Aside from one or two slip-ups, such as calling Felicita's "Veritas," Layton had a smooth approach, never more than a moment away from eliciting wild applause and cheering and the odd cry of "shame" when mentioning the Conservatives' environmental record. He had a few political tricks up his sleeve, too, such as when he joked, "At my first meeting with Stephen Harper, I brought him a book. I don't know what I was thinking."



MARC-ANDRÉ HOYLE PHOTO

Layton covered student debt, climate change and Afghanistan.

The third topic Layton addressed, in addition to education and climate change, was Canadian foreign policy, specifically Canada's involvement in southern Afghanistan. He said that there was a consensus among Canadians that the kind of work we were originally doing there, consisting mostly of reconstruction and providing aid through the Provincial Reconstruction Team, was what we should be doing. But when the last Liberal administration ordered our troops to the area in the south, where the Americans were conducting their "failed" Operation Enduring Freedom, the NDP decided that this was a decision that needed to be debated and voted on in parliament. They were then told that to even ask questions about where we send our military could damage the morale of the troops and was unpatriotic, so it shouldn't be done, said Layton. He wants to see diplomacy used and a "mediated approach" taken.

"We've taken the view that it's the wrong mission," he said. "It's completely out of balance with the approach Canadians would want to take. We're spending $9 on the military war effort for every $1 we're spending on aid. Now that's out of whack, and it's not going to win over the people of Afghanistan to our cause."

The NDP has been criticized because many people think that there's no negotiating with groups like the Taliban. The lecture was no exception, and Layton received questions about the repercussions of this "soft" approach. He countered by quoting Afghan President Karzai, who said that one must dry up the roots of the insurgency, both in country and out, in order to achieve peace. This is done through all-party talks, he said.

"To hunt [the Taliban] down and shoot them until there's none left," Layton said to scattered applause, "there's no evidence that that's going to work."

Layton touched on the softwood lumber agreement and highlighted Prime Minister Harper's relationship with U.S. President Bush, specifically the fact that Bush calls Harper "Steve."

"I think it would be a better indication of the health of our relations with the U.S. if the president of the United States calls our prime minister 'mister,'" he said. "Now I think that would indicate that there's an element of respect, an element of backbone, and I think it's time in our foreign policy that we got some of that backbone."

NEWS BRIEFS

Climate change forum

A forum on climate change will take place on Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at the new Engineering and Computer Science Building. It will feature a panel of Victoria experts, including Andrew Weaver, professor of Earth and Ocean Sciences, NDP MP Denise Savoie, and *Eco-News* editor Guy Dauncey. Some of the issues to be tackled include the fragility of the Goldstream Park eco-system, a new sewage treatment system for the city, and how to attract "green" business to Victoria. The forum is hosted by C-FAX 1070 and will be broadcast live from UVic.

Avoid influenza

Flu shots will be available Oct. 23 and 24 at the University Centre lobby from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students 18 and older will be able to get a vaccine shot for $20. A medical card must also be provided. The shot will boost your immune system and will help prevent you from getting sick and spreading the virus to other people. Flu shots are also available at University Health Services.

... and you're out!

B.C. Solicitor General John Les has said that he backs the proposed national "three-strikes" law. The law, if passed, would see people convicted of particularly violent or sexual crimes for the third time sentenced to serve indefinite prison time. On the third strike, the burden of proof would be reversed and the individual charged would have to prove their innocence. It is similar to the controversial law of the same name in the United States. The federal legislation was tabled Tuesday.

Venezuelan adventures

The Vancouver Island Public Research Group will be hosting a presentation made by Randy Caravaggio and Ivan Maldonado, who travelled all over Venezuela through May. The duo will give a report and show slides of their "fact-finding mission," during which they interviewed doctors, community activists, political leaders, co-op organizers, farmers and teachers about the Venezuelan political situation.

The presentation is on Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. in the Harry Hickman building, room C105. Admission is by donation.

Legendary Hockey Heroes

The Greater Victoria Firefighters Hockey Team and the Peninsula Panthers, a Junior B team, will take on the Legendary Hockey Heroes on Oct. 21 at the Esquimalt Arena in the Battle of the Badges. The Heroes, featuring the likes of Richard Brodeur, Ron Flockhart and Hockey Hall of Famer Dale Hawerchuck, are on a cross-country tour. Tickets are $15 and available at Sports Trader, by phone at 1 (800) 268-7371 or at the door an hour before game-time.

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WILLIE LI PHOTO

The Engineering and Computer Science Building meets demands for more space at UVic and leads way in energy conservation.

New ECS Building is functional and green

by Gord Duff

"Going up," says a saucy female British voice.

This friendly greeting from the automated elevator in the new Engineering and Computer Science Building (ECS) is one of the many features in this technologically rich and environmentally friendly building.

The primary motivation behind the construction of this new building is to facilitate the growing number of students at UVic, particularly in engineering, computer science and related technical disciplines.

The university first proposed the new building to the provincial government under a provincial initiative called Doubling the Opportunity (DTO), stated Michael Miller, dean of engineering.

"[The government] put $22 million into the building," said Miller, adding that the university itself put in an additional $3 million to pay for the new classrooms and lecture halls.

According to Miller, the money was well spent.

"It's hard to believe how the university got by last year without those classrooms, because they're full. They are being used quite heavily."

This year, there is plenty of new lab space for both graduate and undergraduate students, in addition to specialty labs for computer science, including labs for computer music and robotics. There are also many new general-purpose computer labs to meet the demand.

Much of the ECS Building was designed to give students and faculty a sense of openness and belonging. The atrium allows people to see floors above and below them to end any sense of isolation, as can sometimes occur in many storied buildings.

Not only is the ECS Building highly functional, it's also extremely "green" in its design, leaving a small environmental footprint.

Undergraduate advisor and administrative officer Jane Guy was on the ECS Building committee and was involved in the plans during all phases of its development.

"We are going for a gold LEED standard," said Guy.

Leader in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a certification that recognizes projects that minimize their impact on the environment and keep overall energy consumption low.

"[The ECS Building] is actually 25 per cent more energy efficient than the actual [LEED] code requires," said Guy.

The project's first environmental concern was addressed in deciding the location of the new building. Because the committee "wanted to start using parking lots rather than green space," the available parking lot beside the engineering lab wing was chosen.

In addition, all parties involved in the project wanted to retain the trees around the building.

"We had to go up," said Guy.

As a result, the ECS ended up being six storeys.

The lighting in the building is one of many energy conservation tactics—the atrium allows natural light into the majority of the building, and many of the actual lights are automated to turn off and on with motion sensors.

Possibly the most innovative green technique used is the dual plumbing system. Both the heating and cooling system and the flush toilets use wastewater from the aquarium in a nearby building. Thus, what was once "no longer potable" water can be reused.

Unfortunately, the ECS has its downfall too. There is the matter of the paper airplanes scattered on a roof across the atrium.

"It's been a bit of a bane of our lives," said Guy with a chuckle.

Even she had to admit that it is tempting to look across the spacious atrium and wonder, "Would my plane make it?"

Spy agency recruiting

CSIS on campus to look for loyal, reliable Canadians

by Steve Carey

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) was on campus Oct. 10 and 11, holding two recruitment sessions with UVic students.

"The intelligence officer is the key person who is out in the field doing the collecting, working the threat area, or at headquarters in Ottawa doing analysis of information that comes in," said CSIS B.C. bureau chief Brent, who did not divulge his last name.

CSIS doesn't limit recruitment when it comes to hiring new intelligence officers. The director of CSIS feels that a terror attack against Canadians isn't an "if," it's a "when."

"About 75 per cent of our resources are full-time counter-terrorism," the presenter said.

Anyone with a driver's licence, a Canadian citizenship and any type of university degree is eligible to join.

Applications sent to CSIS are first reviewed and screened, tossing out applicants that don't qualify.

"[To collect information] we just have to have reasonable grounds to suspect," Brent said. "We'd better be responsible and work within the framework of democracy so we don't become the problem rather than the solution by violating individual rights."

Candidates who do qualify attend an information session, such as those held on campus, to learn about the service, the duties of the job and the travel requirements of the position.

If the applicant meets the requirements to be an intelligence officer, a suitability interview will be conducted.

Next is the psychological assessment, which includes a test of 1,000 true or false questions and an interview with a CSIS psychiatrist.

If the candidate is not bilingual, CSIS will pay for up to 18 months of language training after a language-skills assessment.

Next, the three-member CSIS National Assessment Panel will conduct an in-depth interview focusing on suitability, knowledge of CSIS and personal motivation for the career choice as an intelligence officer.

The application process continues with the security clearance process—polygraph test, financial statement check, background and criminal checks, fingerprinting, interviews of references—assessing a candidate's reliability and loyalty.

"We've got to make sure you are who you say you are, because, let's face it, no ally in the free world would deal with us if they thought we leaked like a sieve," said Brent. "There's no way they would entrust to us their secrets that would cost them any lives ... or cost us relationships."

An executive committee will evaluate overall suitability for the potential intelligence officer, followed by a final assessment based on the results discovered during the interview process.

CSIS has a 50 per cent female recruitment rate, and encourages an equal opportunity employment process.

The intelligence officer probationary period is five years, during which the CSIS candidate will begin at salary of $50,000 and work towards a $68,490 salaried pay grade. Only four per cent of those recruited choose to leave CSIS.

Brent had some final words of advice for students.

"If you want to apply to CSIS ... apply eight to nine months before you graduate. We'll start to look into you, and maybe within a couple months of graduating you'll have a job offer, rather than graduating and waiting."

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Standing up for those in need at charity event

UVic students gathered around a potluck dinner for a chance to fight worldwide poverty and to remember the less fortunate

by Natalia Crawford

"We are not asking for charity but justice," said Hayley Ferster of the Rotaract Club, reading the Stand Up Against Poverty pledge to the crowd in front of her.

Thirty-nine people showed up to a potluck dinner last Sunday, sharing both their dinners and the desire to end poverty in Canada and around the world.

On Oct. 15 people in hundreds of countries around the world literally and figuratively stood up to show the world that poverty is no longer an option.

"This is being done in countries around the world today, from the smallest towns to the biggest cities," organizer Holly Seale said. "We're trying to set a record in the Guinness World Book for the most people to stand up against poverty in one day."

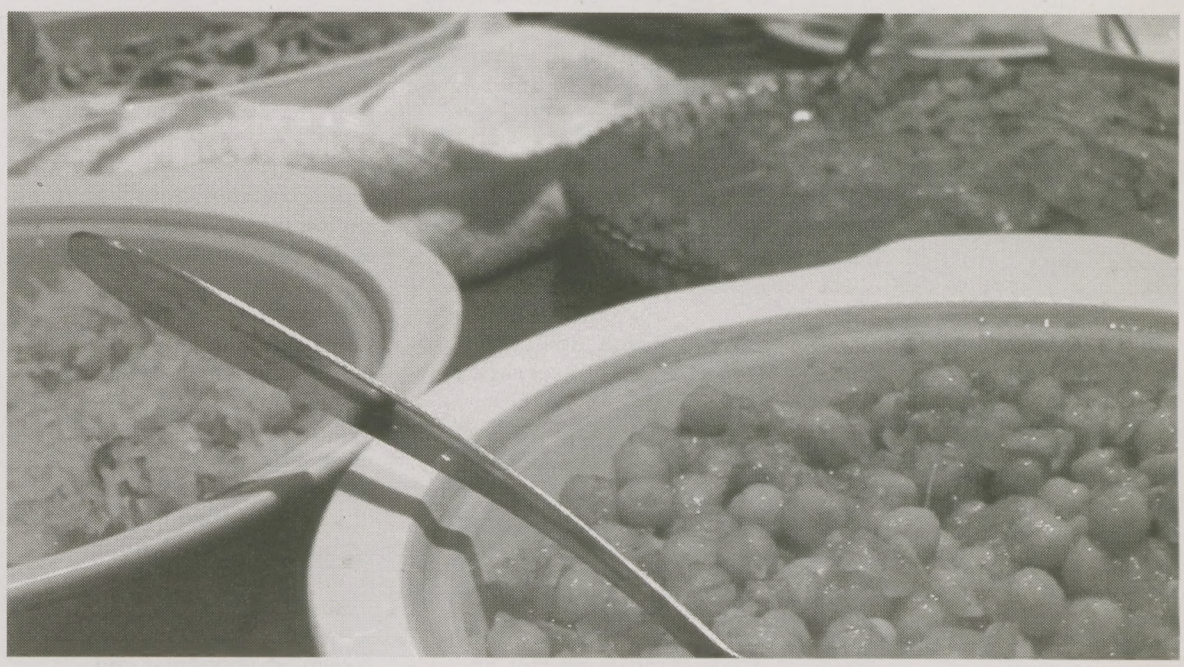
This is done in order to raise awareness of the universal problem of poverty, as well as to remind politicians worldwide of the promises made in the Millennium Development Goals. The Millennium Development Goals, outlined in 2000, include the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achievement of universal primary education, promotion of gender equality and female empowerment, reduction of child mortality, improvement of maternal health, reduction of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring of environmental sustainability, and pursuit of a global partnership for development by the year 2015.

Marc Brackett, a member of the Rotaract Club, reported in his presentation that despite these large goals, progress is being made. The audience, however, was also reminded that there still is quite a way to go. Guest speaker Marina Shaforost spoke of the conditions in Russia, reporting the discrepancies in wealth found between regions. On average, one out of five Russians lives in poverty, with an average two-parent family earning approximately $150 per month.

But there is hope. In Russia's northwest, the region most affected by poverty, the government has implemented a five-year plan to improve conditions for families with children. Salina Dewar, another guest speaker, brought this message home with facts about poverty in our province. B.C. currently has the highest poverty rate in Canada, with a minimum-wage rate that hasn't increased since 2001.

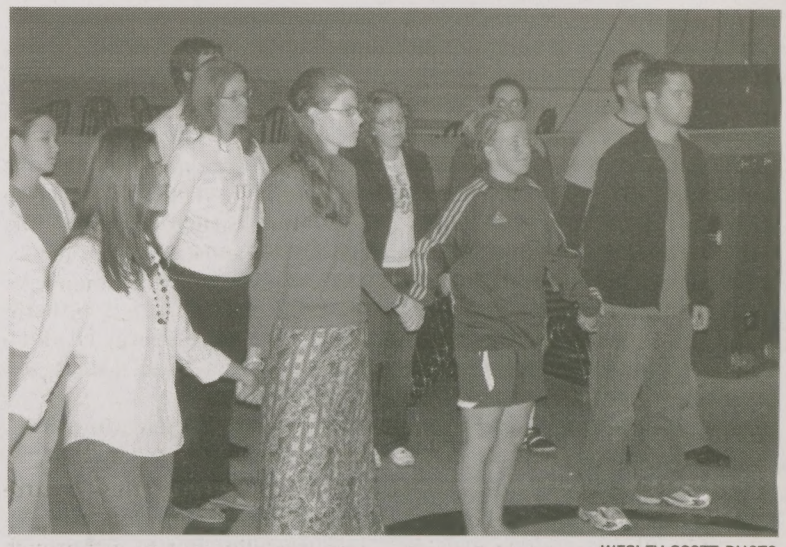
"It's troubling that the federal government put the $13 billion surplus towards debt reduction as opposed to funding for social programs, since 19.5 per cent of B.C.'s families with children under 18 are below the poverty level," she said. A gender gap is also evident in these statistics, with 24.3 per cent of single fathers and 47.7 per cent of single mothers living beneath the poverty line.

"The reality is, you don't usually see children on the street because single mothers will often do anything to keep their children off the street, even if it means staying in a relationship they're unhappy with," said Dewar. She ended the speech by suggesting that attendees get informed about poverty issues in Canada and around the world, and talk with others about it, especially those who have experienced poverty. The night ended with hands linked for a moment of silence to reflect upon the issues facing the less fortunate.



WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Food from around the world was one of the highlights of the event.



WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Attendees link hands in a moment of silence.

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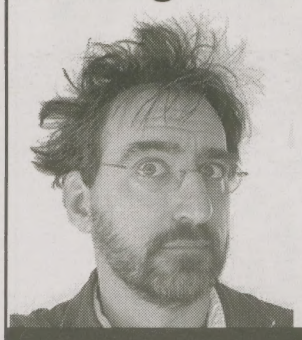

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TIMES COLONIST

Scandal rocks university

Watchdog group calls for suspension of Lansbridge U

by Vanessa Lundgren

The Confederation of University Faculty Associations of B.C. (CUFA/BC), which represents over 4,000 university professors including staff from UVic, has called for the "immediate suspension of operations by Lansbridge University," according to a media release.

This request followed allegations that Lansbridge president Michael Lo had illegally given or promised degrees without ministerial permission through his other school, Kingston College. Kingston students have complained that these degrees, if received, would later be considered worthless. They had been issued by the American University in London (AUL), a school based in the U.K. without accreditation.

CUFA/BC Executive Director Robert Clift was dissatisfied by the response received by the Ministry of Advanced Education when calling for Lansbridge's suspension.

"We were told ... that Lansbridge is a different legal entity than Kingston College," said Clift. "Well, the same guy runs both and ... that may be legally so, but that's bullshit.... 'Bullshit' is not exactly an academic term, but that's what it is."

Kingston College, which has four campuses located in B.C. and Ontario, has had its B.C. activity suspended by the Private Career Training Institutions Agency (PCTIA) following student allegations.

Since 2004, PCTIA has been assigned by the ministry to provide "consumer protection to the students of registered institutions" as well as to ensure that "standards of quality" are upheld by certified private institutions, as posted on the ministry's website.

Until recently, Lo was a board member of the PCTIA. As made public by The Vancouver Sun, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell revoked Lo's membership in that organization shortly after reports of misdeeds at Kingston College.

The Kingston College B.C. website was unavailable at deadline, but a cached version was retrieved. According to this version, the private post-secondary institution had campuses in Vancouver, Burnaby, Toronto and Niagara Falls.

The website stated that the college provided "global students with key gateways to high-demand programs and prestigious diplomas/degrees from top-ranked colleges and universities in Canada and the U.S."

The college claimed to provide bachelor's and master's degree programs in business, information technology and even science in conjunction with AUL.

Kingston College had not received consent by the province to award degrees and, according to The Vancouver Sun, Lo had been asked to stop doing so twice in 2001 and 2004.

Kingston College is just one of seven schools in the Kingston Education Group owned by Lo and associate Queenie Tin. Lansbridge University is also part of this group.

While Lansbridge University has been genuinely accredited by the provincial government, concerns are starting to mount in regard to Lo's direct participation with the Kingston scandal.

"The [way] the government can start to rebuild our trust in them to do the right thing—is to do the right thing, which is to stop Lansbridge University from operating until all of this is cleared up," Clift said.

CUFA/BC wants this controversy to not only lead to proper accountability, but to a thorough reassessment of the bureaucratic process currently in effect under the Degree Authorization Act, legislation that qualifies private institutions to become universities in B.C. and to award degrees.

"We find that there was a significant flaw in this process in that nobody checked into ... Michael Lo's activities at Kingston College and ... made an appropriate report," said Clift. "At least, I'd like to think that. If somebody did know this information [and] they didn't act on it, then, that's a whole other problem."

The Michael Lo/Kingston College controversy has led to increasing disillusionment within CUFA/BC over the quality of the assessment process.

"If the government doesn't move to deal with this matter appropriately [and] quickly, we are going to withdraw our support entirely from the process and advise the rest of the country that the B.C. process is not trustworthy," said Clift.

The organization is notably concerned with how the province's reputation will be affected when it comes to its degree programs. Clift said that institutions like Kingston College give legitimate establishments a black eye and adds that the college was neither the first nor the only private sector institution illegally offering degrees within the province.

CUFA/BC has occasionally informed the government of such offenders, but the information "goes into a black hole and we never know what happens," he said.

"The government has a responsibility, and it's not just a responsibility to the academics of B.C. who are worried about the reputation of B.C. degrees. They have a responsibility to the students who, because there isn't good consumer information out there, choose these institutions, and often these students are ... international students," said Clift.

Frustrated by the government's slow response to their complaints, some students from the B.C. and Ontario campuses are fighting back and have created an online message board to exchange thoughts and create solidarity.

In a message thread titled "Let's get together and get our money back!!!," message board moderator "Ajay" adds: "Not just the money that we paid ... all these years of emotional and mental stress that we faced ... this college was hell for us."

"This is not exactly the best face that Canada is putting on for the rest of the world," Clift said.

Michael Lo was unavailable for comment as of Martlet press time.

Less funding for UVic justified

by Kim Armstrong

UVic receives the smallest average provincial grant per full-time student of the four major universities in B.C.

For the 2006-07 academic year, the University of Victoria will receive an average $9,017 grant per full-time enrollment (FTE), compared to the University of British Columbia's (UBC) $10,968, Simon Fraser University's (SFU) $9,269 and the University of Northern B.C.'s (UNBC) $11,990.

"I'd say that's surprising," said former UVic biology student Jen Demedeiros when asked her opinion. "I'm not sure why that would be."

This might not seem like much of a difference, but for the last two years, UVic has gotten the least funding per students of the four, and it's expected to receive the least again in the next two years.

"The average operating grant per FTE is derived by dividing total operating grants by total funded FTEs," said Kindree Draper, a public affairs officer with AVED. "For example, UVic's 2006-07 operating grant is $137,704,381, and funded FTEs are 15,272. Dividing the operating grant by funded FTEs yields the number $9,017."

At first glance, it appears that UVic receives less money per FTE than the other major universities, but this is not in fact the case.

"Each year, institutions receive additional operating grants to support new growth in student FTEs," said Draper.

"The amount varies across program categories ... for example, nursing and health spaces are generally more costly to deliver than general growth spaces."

While the amount of funding varies from program to program, department funding is consistent across institutions.

"UVic receives the same amount of funding for an additional bachelor of science in nursing student as UBC and UNBC ... however, institutions that take on more higher cost programs end up with higher average operating grants per FTE," Draper said. SFU does not provide a bachelor of science program.

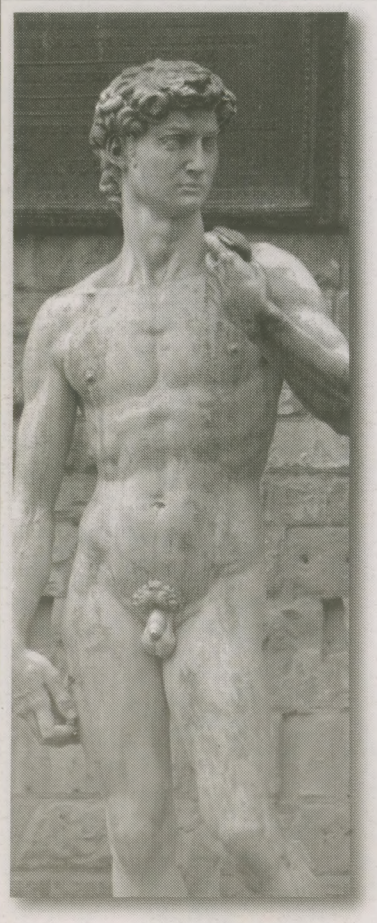
In addition, institutions receive additional grants from AVED to cover specific costs.

An example, said Draper, would be that in 2006-2007 and following years, operating grants are going to be adjusted to account for the costs of recent collective agreement settlements.

"The amount provided to a specific institution will vary according to the number and structure of faculty and staff at the institution and according to the terms of the settlement," she said. "Differences across institutions will be reflected in the operating grant per FTE calculation."

Finally, universities might receive additional funding on top of what has already been mentioned. This is the case with UNBC, which as a new institution has received top-up funding until reaching an economically stable size.

"An institution can end up with a lower average operating grant per FTE amount within a funding model that is applied consistently across institutions," said Draper, as is the case with UVic.



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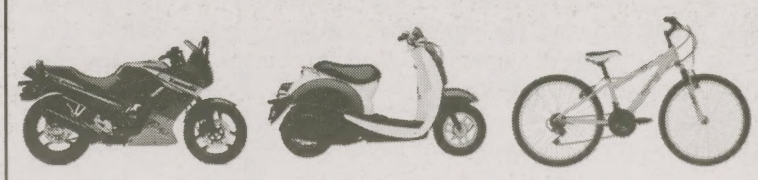

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Editorial

Layton speaks on climate change

When NDP leader Jack Layton visited this university last week, he told the audience about a present he once gave to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The gift was a copy of revered Australian scientist Tim Flannery's non-fiction book called *The Weather Makers*. Flannery's work is an account of the destruction that global warming is having on Earth and stresses the need for immediate action. Layton and his wife, NDP MP Olivia Chow, had read the book and thought it might inspire the prime minister to take action on global warming (or at least make for fodder in future speeches.)

On a future visit to Harper's office, Layton noticed that the book was lying on his desk and asked whether the prime minister had read it yet. He had not.

Had Harper read that book or paid serious attention to any of the films (*An Inconvenient Truth*), books (John Houghton's *Global Warming: The Complete Briefing*) and reports (David Suzuki Foundation's 2006 report on provincial climate change plans), his new environmental act might have had a chance to fight climate change and reduce greenhouse gases.

But instead, Environment Minister Rona Ambrose has announced that we're going to do the exact opposite. This week the government will present a form of environmental rape to be known as the Clean Air Act. It will be described as an alternative and homegrown option to the Kyoto Protocol, which requires participating countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least five per cent by 2012. Canada vowed to reduce its emissions by six per cent.

The "Clean Air Act is actually going to permit Canada to have dirtier air," Layton told the audience in the David Lam Auditorium. And politicking aside, Layton is right. Rather than limiting the amount of harmful emissions that energy companies can produce, the new act would set intensity-based targets—so that each unit a company produces must have a lower amount of harmful emissions. But there will be no restriction on how many units a company can produce, which will allow the rate of greenhouse gases to continue skyrocketing.

The Kyoto Protocol goals aren't gonna happen, say the Conservatives, echoing the sentiment made south of the border. Canada isn't even going to bother trying to meet Kyoto's standards. Why not? It's bad for business, especially for Alberta's lucrative (and pollutive) oil sands. Considering that the federal government draws a large amount of support (both political and financial) from the Albertan energy sector, requiring them to cap greenhouse gas emissions could be a deadly political move.

But it's not something Alberta Premier Ralph Klein was ever worried about. He told reporters that he didn't expect the Clean Air Act would "seriously damage the economic opportunities that exist within the oil sands." (Alberta is worst polluter of all the provinces.)

Canada's environmental record is embarrassing. We're one of the largest polluters per capita in the world. According to the David Suzuki Foundation, only four of 34 countries that ratified the Kyoto Protocol will not meet their goal. And Canada is one of them. Our greenhouse gas emissions were up 24 per cent at the end of 2003, and with the Conservative government's new plan, they won't be decreasing any time soon.

The Suzuki Foundation and other environmentalist organizations have laid out clear ways, such as financial incentives, that allow for emissions to be reduced without overwhelming and destroying industry. And some parts of the country have been able to make steps towards achieving the Kyoto reduction goal. Calgary is already there. Toronto has reduced its emissions by 67 per cent below its 1990 levels. In 2003 Victoria brought its emissions down 20 per cent from the year before. But without a strict environmental plan from the federal government, Canada's largest polluting sector won't be curbed and we will have done nothing to battle global warming.

Jack Layton said last week that visiting this part of the country always makes him a little sad. He knows that if global warming is allowed to continue at the rate it is now, our island may be one of the many parts of the world covered in water.

But don't worry: the oil sands will be fine.

Angry? Pleased? Confused? Aroused? Tell us: letters@martlet.ca

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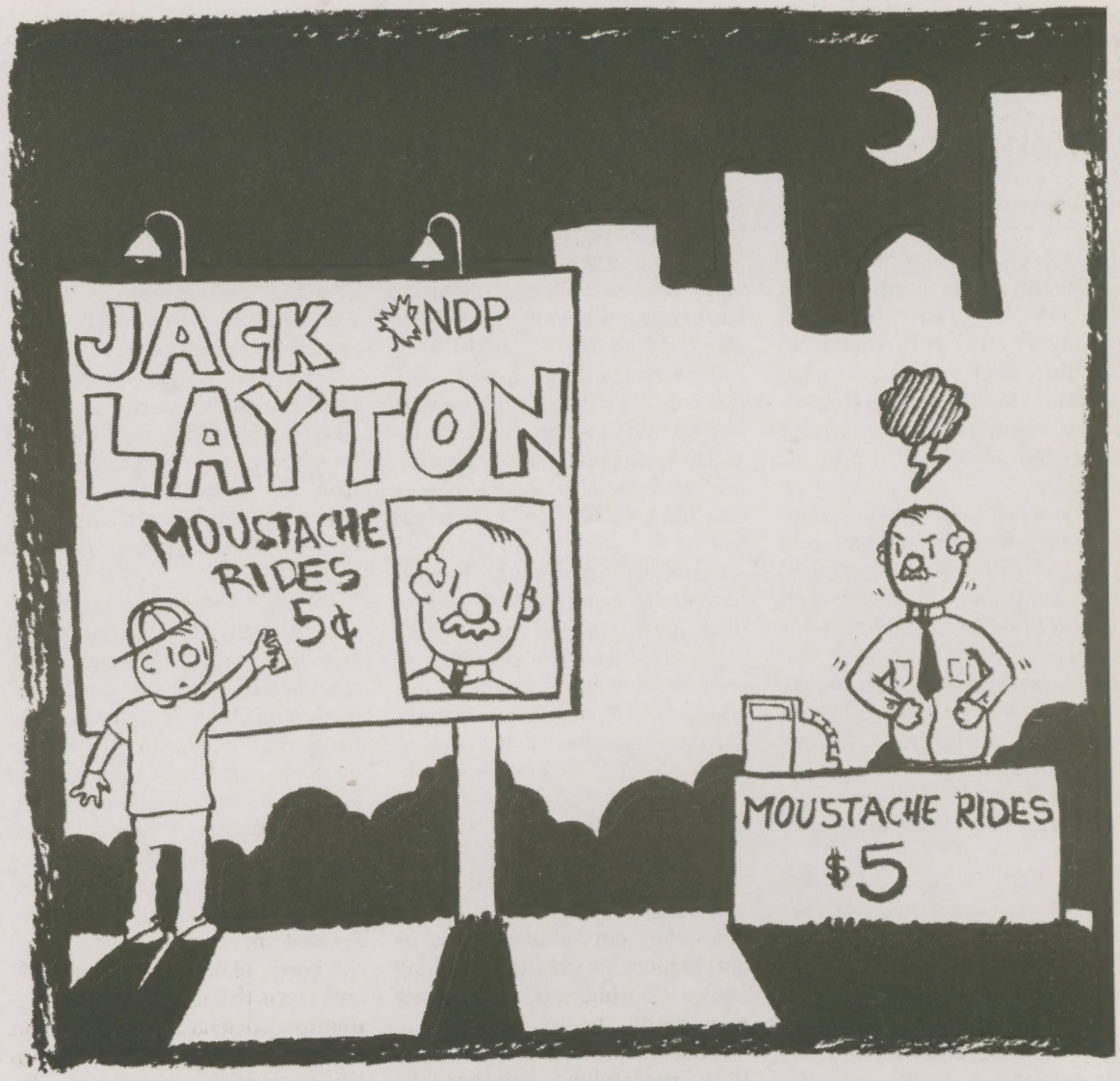

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Comic not funny

This letter is regarding Anthony Frattaroli's political comic in the opinion section of the Oct. 12 *Martlet*.

This comic is unfunny, offensive and seems to have totally missed the point of the Centre for Addictions Research of BC's (CARBC) findings. The CARBC study had nothing to do with science or "invalidation" of cannabis use. How the artist of your comic drew that meaning from it is a mystery to me, and demonstrates fairly poor comprehension of the issue. The stereotypical lazy stoner from movies like *Half Baked* is, contrary to popular conservative belief, quite rare. Most cannabis users are responsible citizens, just like everyone else. We are bus drivers, teachers, students, clerks, tradespeople, programmers, and just about any other job you can think of, including in some cases, presidents.

Maybe we like a puff in the evening to help us fall asleep, or just an odd joint now and again when partying with friends. Very few of us would consider our lifestyles "worthless" as your cartoonist seems to believe.

The only thing worthless here is this blatantly offensive and derogatory comic. Perhaps next week you could run a hilarious Prophet Muhammed spoof? Poor call, *Martlet* editors.

Michael Brown, UVic student

Sympathy for Mr. Dan Palmer

I'm a straight, white male. I grew up in an upper-middle class family. I have no disabilities of any kind. In short, I'm the enemy.

It's from that realization that I find sympathy for Dan Palmer, writer of "Affirmative Craption" and target of much criticism in last week's *Martlet*. I, too, have sat in on discussions that have crossed the line from being about the establishing of equality to the blanket blaming of men for all the evils of the world. I, too, say nothing for fear of becoming a target of the rapidly building ire in the room.

I sit conflicted—on the one hand, I always have and always will be a supporter of equity and equality in all things. I completely agree that discrimination can be nothing but a destructive force. And yet, I am and always will be, in these people's eyes, guilty by association because I happened to be born male.

No, I'm not claiming to be discriminated against. But when my choices are to agree with sentiments vilifying my sex and race or to speak up and become the target of those accusations, I can't help but feel a bit offended.

I don't deny that if you trace any given evil back to its source you will probably find a straight, white male. But do all straight, white men deserve your hatred?

Believe it or not, some of us are trying to help.

Shawn Peters, UVic student

'Suck it up' freshman

To the smarmy freshman touting his copy of Voltaire and complaining about the choice of required reading in English: suck it up. It's too bad that first-year English is a requirement (oh, if only they offered an "Intro to Pretentious Complaints"), but maybe you should take your problems with the required reading to the professor. I'm sure your well-founded criticisms (embellished with helpful and articulate descriptors like "boringness" and "shitty") will sway his PhD-educated mind to your obviously more brilliant perspective.

Or maybe you could consider the fact that life is full of obligations, and sometimes, in the course of one's education, one may have to do things that aren't fun. Look at the bright side: claiming "intellectual superiority" over the course material gives you a chance to flaunt that delusion a little longer. In the meantime, try to restrain your whining unless you want someone to shove a pacifier in your mouth.

Michelle Reid, UVic student

The Bible forgotten in *Martlet*

One reason to reform existing cannabis (kaneh bosm/marijuana) laws that doesn't get mentioned in "Turns out, all the B.C. kids are smoking pot" is because it is biblically correct.

Christ God Our Father indicates He created all the seed-bearing plants, saying they are all good, on literally the very first page (see Genesis 1:11-12 and 29-30). The only biblical restriction placed on cannabis is that it be accepted with thankfulness (see 1 Timothy 4:1-5).

Anyone who thinks it is okay to cage humans for using or growing what God says is good is a fool.

Stan White, Colorado reader

Hate stuff?

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History of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll

by Dock Currie

It's hit or miss using obscure indie rock to flirt. Often, eyes roll as I launch into my protracted monologue on the influence of post-structural philosophy on modern music. Proof lies in the fact that Blur's *Parklife* is based on *London Fields* by Martin Amis, the various Burroughs references scattered throughout the early Joy Division EPs, and the obvious nihilism in most of the noise rock and shoegaze in the late '80s to early '90s.

Last week Kim Armstrong explored the libertarian origins of the phrase "sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll," and whether the phrase is relevant today ["Spirit of sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll" Oct. 12], but didn't really explain who was libertarian and how it was relevant. And, while I myself wouldn't write such a diatribe without provocation, I am inclined to respond.

Is sex relevant today? Are drugs? How about rock 'n' roll? Well, if you take them for their constituent aspects, I'd say that fucking and getting high are still entirely relevant, but that the term rock 'n' roll has come to connotate something overarching and hard to judge on its own merits. But if you are asking whether rock 'n' roll still holds meaning for the youth and audiences of today: it does.

But the phrase didn't actually originate from within the culture itself, it was an aspersion cast upon popular music by religious groups in the '60s and '70s, and it demonstrates the conservative cartoon of libertarians at the time. The phrase was set into stone in 1977 when Ian Dury & The Blockheads recorded "Sex And Drugs And Rock And Roll," which became an anthem for the cause.

The Blockheads playing that song pointed to those who I've come to believe were the real motivating philosophers of popular music in the last 50 years, Guy Debord and the situationists.

The situationist belief scheme is a convoluted one that considers the entirety of the perceived world, what Don DeLillo called "the coalescing of nameless energies," to be part of a concrete image that impedes and, in fact, takes the place of society. Their main concern is the apathy and lethargy that this societal image creates in order to sustain itself. Apathy can be constructed by virtue of pacifying elements of the image such as television, celebrities and the pursuit of abstract wealth.

It's true, of course, that The Sex Pistols were the rag dolls of one such situationist, their manager Malcolm McLaren. But The Sex Pistols are a poor example for philosophical import because they were less influenced by the situationists than they were used by the situationists at the time. The British situationist movement, called King Mob, had split from Guy Debord's Situationist International (SI) in the early '70s because the SI refused to recognize the American situationist movement, The Up Against The Wall Motherfuckers. And The Sex Pistols, as such, amounted to little other than a brute weapon, by which McLaren and King Mob could spread absurdist action and provocative beliefs in an effort to promote radical social change.

So who really benefited from the situationist movement? The real benefactors were the post-punk purists of the '80s like Slint, Husker Du, Dinosaur Jr. and The Butthole Surfers. These coonskin-capped pioneers of rock 'n' roll couldn't be said to be nihilistic or even explicitly situationist, but they certainly weren't enthralled with the morality of the times they were living in. To say they were libertarian would imply that they would have been okay with a kind of working truce with the conservative right at the time, and I doubt they would have been.

Sex is a biological function and won't be stopped by anything short of chemical castration in me or anyone else who isn't socialized to be frigid by an overwrought ethics scheme. Drugs aren't just an escape, they're a religion unto themselves, they provide the kind of fall-down/see-truth experience that southern Baptists pretend to have at Bible camp. And rock 'n' roll isn't a genre anymore; it's a lifestyle; it can't be held up against things like disco because, as much as it pains some people, things like disco are just aspects thereof (as demonstrated by The Rapture). Rock 'n' roll can't die; it can only be born again.

Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll are what the cool kids do. And, as Chuck Klosterman, editor of *Spin* magazine, points out, "In the realm of rock 'n' roll, the cool kids fucking rule."

A lesson in laptop etiquette

by Marri Knadle

The soft clicking of rapid typing is a familiar counterpoint to the scratching of pens on paper in classrooms today. Laptops are a blessing for students who aren't the most diligent note-takers for lack of penmanship or wrist stamina. But they can also be as distracting as they are beneficial.

With UVic's campus entirely wireless, logging onto the Internet is a real temptation for laptop users—all but the most hardened scholars will succumb to this temptation. While the Internet provides entertainment, it's also a potentially useful tool. Wikipedia especially offers quick access to facts to clarify or elaborate on a professor's point. A quick check of Dictionary.com can elucidate the meaning of some word your professor has used at the height of his or her impassioned narrative.

Common sense demands that MSN's usefulness be exploited during class, but that familiar "boodle-boop" of someone logging in to MSN suggests they are being used for more than information. While talking to friends on Messenger isn't as intrusive as talking on a cell phone, it is nonetheless a distraction. To ensure laptop presence is not an intrusion into a learning environment, there are some simple rules of etiquette that should be observed by laptop users and those near them.

Laptop users: Turn off your sound before even putting your computer in your bag in the morning. No one needs to know you're on MSN during class, especially the professor. It's your decision if you want to multitask between taking notes, but announcing to the classroom that you're tuning out is disrespectful. Don't watch movies during class either. Your screen is distracting enough without moving images on it. Keep your wallpapers (and your surfing) school friendly. That high-resolution spread of Jenna Jameson may match your room decor at home perfectly, but it might embarrass your classmates.

Don't put your headphones on. Whatever you choose to do on your laptop while the professor talks (or drones), you should at least be courteous enough to give the illusion of learning.

People near laptop users: Don't be a screen-watcher. If you think that your neighbour's notes might be useful, ask them before class if they wouldn't mind you occasionally stealing a glance. Observing their Messenger conversations or Internet surfing uninvited is rude. Know that if there's no trace of note-taking happening on their screen, that's the decision they've made. They've paid for this course as you have, and perhaps they have background information already on the subject that you're unaware of, or they're simply having a poor day and need to zone out for a while.

With this mutual respect comes mutual opportunity. Laptop users, you're in a prime position to have your classmates love you if you offer to e-mail them your notes if they're absent. This possibility will also force you to keep better notes because they might be looked at by a second pair of eyes.

There's no reason why laptops shouldn't be welcomed in classrooms. Use it as an all-in-one thesaurus, dictionary, reference library and scribe, and try to leave the amusements until later. And if you can't resist the urge to chat with your friend in New York, do so stealthily, and don't stop note-taking altogether. The person dozing to your left might want them.

Why Canada should ban trans fats

by Diane Grieve

There is no denying that America is the world's heaviest nation. But before we point and laugh at McFatty Americans and their war on obesity, we should probably take a look at our own national scale.

Almost 60 per cent of Canadian adults and 30 per cent of Canadian children are dealing with weight problems. Obesity is a major contributing factor to both heart disease—Canada's number one killer—and diabetes, which costs taxpayers $9 billion annually. Canada is also one of the highest consumers of trans fats in the world.

Most of the trans fats that we consume are from industrial-made products that use the process of partial hydrogenation to convert oils into semi-solid forms such as margarine and lard. Most fryer oil is partially hydrogenated, and many bakery products contain high numbers of trans fats. Unlike other forms of fats, trans fats both raise levels of LDL (bad cholesterol that increases the risk of heart disease) and lower levels of HDL (good cholesterol that protects against heart disease).

Denmark banned trans fats in their restaurants and grocery shelves in 2003. Recently, the New York City health department announced that they want to phase out the use of artificial trans fats in restaurant food. The city of Chicago is thinking about doing the same. Why aren't Canadian cities considering partial or full bans on trans fats in restaurant cooking?

There are several reasons why the restaurant industry might be reluctant to adopt such changes, especially without strict legislation forcing them to do so. Trans fats preserve shelf life, which is important to restaurants because they cut down on food waste and thus cut costs. Also many restaurants would have to overhaul their entire cooking processes (think KFC), which would of course take time and cost money.

But the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservice Association is expecting the restaurant industry to have $50 billion in sales this year. Surely they can afford to make changes. While it may not be their responsibility to look out for the long-term health and quality of life of their patrons, restaurateurs attract more people to their establishment by doing so.

Most major cities in Canada have banned smoking in their restaurants and bars, much to the chagrin of the owners and managers. They complained about the potential lost revenue, but some studies have shown an actual increase in patronage at bars since the ban. As the correlation to the food we eat and our health problems becomes better understood, people are likely to seek out restaurants using healthy cooking practices.

We spend billions eating out every year and consuming food that is relatively harmful to our health. The advent of fast foods, television use, and a more sedentary workforce and lifestyle, among other factors, have also contributed to Canada's overall weight gain and increased health problems in the last 60 years. Clearly more than just our diets will have to change—we must look at our entire lifestyles.

Legislated elimination of artificial trans fats is an important step to better health. If it's mandated by our governments, it would send a clear signal that we're committed to better health and a higher standard of living for our citizens.

Not too nice for terror

Canada's quiet struggle with terrorism

by Clarke Ries
graphics by Anthony Frattaroli

The word "terrorist" has been around since the French Revolution, when it referred to government agents who kept the population in line through fear. "War on Terror" wasn't coined yesterday, either: its first recorded use was in 1881, to describe the fight against anarchists trying to destabilize the international system. These words may not be factory-fresh, but they've taken on new meanings today, changing lives and policy overnight.

Despite the popular temptation to write it off as an American problem, terrorism and how we choose to deal with it is quickly redefining Canada. This is a look at Canada's relationship with terrorism—what some ignore and others know little about.

Michael Webb, a political science professor at the University of Victoria, provided insight into the issue.

Maher Arar

Project A-O Canada was commissioned following 9-11 as an RCMP unit tasked with preventing terrorist attacks in Canada. Its case files were transferred from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), Canada's domestic intelligence agency. The experience and talent of the officers assigned to Project A-O was unquestioned. In part, their duties involved surveillance of those thought to be a threat to Canada.

One of these supposed threats was a man named Abdullah Almalki, who on Oct. 12, 2001, met with a software engineer named Maher Arar in Ottawa. They walked and spoke together for about 20 minutes. The conversation was not overheard. On the basis of that meeting, Project A-O requested that U.S. and Canadian customs flag Arar as a terrorism lookout, which made him subject to special scrutiny when crossing the border. Project A-O described Arar as part of "a group of Islamic extremist individuals suspected of being linked to the al-Qaida terrorist movement."

"I'm not going to defend the RCMP, because what they did was clearly inappropriate," said Webb on the topic of Arar. "But it happened at a time [in the year after 9-11] when there was a certain level of widespread paranoia. This doesn't justify what happened; it helps explain what happened."

Between the fall of 2001 and 2002, Project A-O sent information to U.S. customs officials that depicted Arar as a suspect, a target, and as a principal subject of investigation, even going so far as to put him on a chart titled "Bin Laden's Associates: al-Qaida Organization in Ottawa." At no point did Project A-O come into possession of any information that would have led to the conclusions they drew. "This was just so wrong," said Webb. "No matter how intense security concerns are, that just shouldn't happen."

On Sept. 26, 2002, Arar was detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on his way to Montreal. Twelve days later, American authorities declared Arar a member of al-Qaida on the strength of Canadian intelligence and sent him to Syria, where he would be jailed and tortured for almost a year.

Arar has since returned to Canada and received an apology from RCMP Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli. Webb believes the atmosphere of paranoia that led to Arar's appalling mistreatment may still exist, but has lessened "because 9-11 hasn't happened again, because American reaction to 9-11 has caused all sorts of bigger problems, like the war in Iraq," he said. "I think it's made people more wary of sacrificing civil liberties in the pursuit of security."

Secret Trial Five & Security Certificates

Mohamed Harkat. Mohammad Mahjoub. Adil Charkaoui. Hassan Almrei. Mahmoud Jaballah.

These are the names of the so-called Secret Trial Five. They were arrested and have been imprisoned without charge for years—in the case of Mahjoub, since June of 2000. Charkaoui was released on bail in 2005; Harkat in June 2006. Both are kept under house arrest. For the remaining three, their home for the foreseeable future will be the $2.2-million Kingston prison-within-a-prison built just for them—officially a division of the maximum security Millhaven Institution, unofficially dubbed Guantanamo North.

All five men ran afoul of a previously little-known aspect of Canada's immigration laws: security certificates. Amnesty International has described the certificates as "fundamentally flawed and unfair," but Canada has nevertheless handed out 27 to permanent residents and non-citizens of Canada since 1991.

Based on information supplied by the RCMP or CSIS, the Ministers of Public Safety and Immigration will sign a security certificate claiming that the person in question is a criminal, endangers Canada's security or has committed human rights violations prior to coming to Canada. A federal judge then reviews the evidence in secret, without the presence of the immigrant in question or the immigrant's lawyer. Witnesses cannot be cross-examined. Neither the defendant nor the defendant's lawyer are allowed to hear the evidence. The government may at any time present new evidence to the judge without informing the defendant or defendant's lawyer, and that evidence is not held to the same standard as in a normal trial.

According to Edward Greenspan, a lawyer and the vice-president of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, "The evidence can be hearsay, double hearsay, triple hearsay."

During the hearings, which in this case have taken years (for Mahjoub, over half a decade), the subject of the certificate is jailed without charge. In fact, it is possible for the subject to be deported without any charge being laid. Should the judge decide that the certificate is reasonable, the immigrant is immediately deported to his or her country of origin without appeal and without consideration for whether or not arrest, torture, or death await the person on upon return.

"There is a genuine problem here," said Webb. It's a case of the absolute rights granted to those on Canadian soil versus the danger to Canadians everywhere should even one terrorist evade authorities: a side of the equation Webb understands.

"It is sometimes difficult to have the kind of proof that would stand up in court under normal judicial standards. I can easily imagine circumstances where there is a high probability that somebody is going to engage in [a terrorist act], but the normal burden of proof cannot be reached," said Webb. "I'm not saying it justifies locking up anybody, and I'm also not saying concern for civil liberties justifies not doing anything. It's a problem."

Tamil Tigers

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), often called the Tamil Tigers, have been at war for more than 30 years. During their campaign to turn the ethnic Tamil regions in Sri Lanka's north into an independent state, the Tigers have targeted innocent civilians, carried out political assassinations, executed surrendering Sri Lankan soldiers and ethnically cleansed areas under their control. Between 1983 and 2002, at least 60,000 people have died in the civil war. More than a quarter of Sri Lanka's Tamils have left the country. The Mackenzie Institute, a Canadian liberal think-tank, estimated that as of 2003, about 200,000 live in Toronto. Of these, 8,000 are veterans of the Tamil guerrilla war.

The LTTE's policy of not targeting foreigners has kept most Canadians out of danger, but for the Tamil population in Canada, leaving Sri Lanka has not meant leaving the conflict behind. Strife between pro- and anti-Tiger street gangs in Toronto has been constant since the early '90s, taking the shape of armed brawls, gunfights, drive-by shootings, armed robberies and murders. Intimidation of Tamils whose support falters has gone unchecked: in one case a Toronto cultural centre was firebombed when the director criticized the Tigers. The Mackenzie Institute and the *National Post*, both critics of the LTTE, have received threats and harassment.

It's believed that by the mid '90s, up to 90 per cent of the LTTE's funding was from overseas. Toronto police estimate that in 1996, the Tigers raised $1 million from expatriate Tamils. Some analysts quoted by Human Rights Watch peg the number as high as $12 million. In 2000, CSIS found that at least eight non-profit organizations and five companies operating in Canada were fronts for the LTTE.

The Tigers in Canada use a computer database, public records, and information from supporters to monitor movements within and arrivals to the community. A Tamil woman in Toronto related a disturbing story to Human Rights Watch in November 2005. "Each time [we moved], they came to visit within a month or two. Once it was within two weeks of when we moved in."

For years, the Tigers operated with impunity in Canada, benefiting from the fearful silence of the Tamils they exploited and the ambiguities that can spring up around paramilitary groups. "The same groups that provide funding for the military activities of the Tamil Tigers also provide humanitarian and social activities," said Webb. "The division between those two is not entirely clear cut."

On April 10 of this year, the Conservative government joined the U.S., Britain and India and declared the Tamil Tigers a terrorist organization. This makes it illegal for Canadians to financially support the Tigers, to some extant lessening the pressure on Tamils in Canada to comply with demands for donations. James Ross, a senior legal adviser for Human Rights Watch in New York, noted at the time that while a ban is a positive step, it hasn't stopped acts of intimidation in Britain, where a similar ban has been in place since 2000.

Canada-U.S. Relations

Former prime minister Pierre Trudeau once compared living so close to the United States as "sleeping with an elephant. No matter how friendly and even-tempered the beast, one is affected by every twitch and grunt." Since 9-11, the elephant has been sleep-walking.

As part of the War on Terror, the United States has launched major ground invasions in Afghanistan and Iraq; not-so-subtly threatened Iran, North Korea and Syria; passed the Patriot Act; requested Canada's help with their missile defence scheme and begun live-ammunition naval drills on the Great Lakes. Finding a new place to sleep isn't an option for most Canadians, and dealing with our seven-ton bedmate has become a difficult task.

"[9-11] does appear to have strengthened a sense of nationalism in the United States, a suspicion of foreigners, and an unwillingness to make compromises when there is an even remotely plausible argument for increasing security," said Webb. "All this stuff about defending the Canada-U.S. border, and gunships on the Great Lakes—clearly people have gone off the deep end.... It's strongest under this [Bush] administration, because this administration has staked so much of its reputation on defending Americans from foreigners."

Popular myth, spread by word of mouth in general and American politician Pat Buchanan in particular, holds that the majority of the 9-11 terrorists crossed into the United States from Canada. While it isn't true, it's not an unlikely situation. In 2005, 1,600 vehicles failed to stop at customs ports, and at least 3,000 entered Canada illegally on just two of our 200 completely unguarded roads. Canadian border guards do not carry arms and are under orders not to stop felons known to be armed and dangerous. The American government took a particularly dim view of our border security after 9-11 and implemented additional security measures to compensate.

On Sept. 13, 2001, traffic from Windsor, Ont. into Detroit, Mich. was backed up for 36 kilometres. American clampdowns along the border played merry hell with the half-million people and $2 billion in goods and services that cross on a daily basis.

"It is the case that since 9-11 it's been very hard to argue against spending money on security," said Webb.

More than just wreaking havoc with our border, U.S. foreign policy has changed at the deepest levels how Canada and the Unites States interact. Sovereignty over our air space has been questioned by the missile defence debate, and our loyalty to the United States has been questioned for not supporting the Iraq war.

Canadians are used to looking at the problem of terrorism from the outside. The tragedies, chaos and shady ethical issues are located in other countries. But this is an irresponsible view to take. Both the presence in Canada of groups such as the Tamil Tigers and the choices being made by law enforcement and government are shaping our relationship with terrorism. What that relationship becomes will have repercussions for all Canadians, for years to come.

Why you should get the flu shot

UVic doctor says pandemic is likely

by Kim Armstrong

WILLIE LI IMAGE

Of the 205 cases of avian flu between December 2003 and April 2006, 113 resulted in death.

UVic's health services will be fighting in the battle of the bug. On Oct. 23 and 24, the James Petersen Health Clinic is holding influenza vaccine information clinics in the University Centre lobby to inform students of the benefits of receiving the flu shot.

"We're wanting to immunize as many people as we possibly can," said head nurse Donna Denman. The more people who are immunized, the less chance there is of widespread infection, and students who can avoid the illness also avoid the academic issues that come with missing multiple classes. In addition, vaccination for the flu helps doctors more quickly diagnose other serious illnesses with early flu-like symptoms, such as bacterial meningitis.

"If somebody comes in with a headache and a high fever—flu-like symptoms—and they're the 20th person that we've seen that day with similar symptoms, it's likely they'll be diagnosed with the flu and the person will be sent home," said the health centre's medical director, Dr. William Dyson. If that person is able to say that they've been vaccinated, however, healthcare providers can begin to look beyond the flu to diagnose the patient's true illness.

The 2006-07 vaccine, which will be available at the UVic health centre about a month before it appears in doctors' offices and clinics, is beneficial to students, said Dyson, who has already seen cases of flu-like illnesses come through the clinic.

"I think we recognize that university students play a special role in society in spreading flu around from region to region, because our students do a lot of travelling, both national and international," he said. "Then, if they move into residence, they're moving into a system that's going to multiply the virus, because it spreads rapidly from person to person in residence."

Possible Pandemic?

There is another reason to get immunized.

"It is very likely that we will have a pandemic in the next year or so," said Denman, echoing the opinion of the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion, which states that most health-care professionals feel a pandemic is imminent within the next five to 10 years.

"Pandemic influenza is going to look initially like seasonal influenza," said Dyson. "The fewer people who are sick with seasonal influenza, the more apparent it will be that something new has arrived." Pandemics, as opposed to epidemics, which occur within a single region or country, are outbreaks of a disease affecting multiple countries or continents. The 20th century saw three major influenza pandemics, the most well-known of which was the 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic that killed tens of millions of people worldwide. Two other pandemics, in 1957-58 and 1968-69, were less widespread.

A major candidate for a new pandemic is the much-publicized avian flu that first appeared in humans in 1997. This latest strain of avian influenza is still imperfectly transmitted from chickens to humans, but those cases that have occurred show that it is now a very strong disease.

The general seasonal strains of influenza have a death rate of perhaps 0.1 to 0.2 per cent, and this occurs mostly in children, the elderly and those with immune problems. A World Health Organization report that examined the avian flu cases that occurred between December 2003 and April 2006 showed that of the 205 cases reported, 113 resulted in death.

The possibility of the flu mutating enough to become easily transmittable to humans is relatively high because of the nature of the influenza virus. It is highly unstable, constantly rewriting parts of its genetic code as it divides and replicates.

Many of these mutations help it to survive as they change the virus just enough that the immune system doesn't recognize it. This is why someone can have the flu more than once, because previous antibodies do little good against the altered virus. Although it is possible that an entirely new flu strain could spark the next pandemic, it would only take a small mutation in the avian flu to allow it to pass between humans as easily as it currently spreads from chicken to chicken.

"That one probably would be painfully obvious," said Dyson of identifying the pandemic flu strain, "because the mortality rate has been so high."

There is currently work being done to produce a vaccine to fight against the avian flu, but nothing has been completed. In the meantime, said Dyson, it is a good idea to consider inoculation against the disease.

"Let's put it this way: If nobody is purchasing a product, why would anybody make it?" Dyson asked. "In order to keep the industrial capacity [to produce the flu vaccine] in place, so that we can have mass production of the vaccine that will save our life someday, we are well advised to be purchasing our flu vaccines along the way."

There is no possibility of catching influenza from the vaccine itself because it contains no live viruses. Although the virus proteins can react with the body's immune system to create phantom flu symptoms, such as a low-grade fever and mild aching, the only serious effects from the vaccine occur when, rarely, a person develops an allergy to the egg-white base used in its solution. The vaccine is effective about three weeks after inoculation.

Because the vaccine used by the clinic is relatively new in Canada, Health Canada's regulatory board has not yet approved it for use on people under 18 years old. This is not because the vaccine is unsafe, said Denman; it is because it hasn't yet made it through the paperwork. The vaccine has been in use in the U.S. since 1992.

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KEVIN EHMAN PHOTO

There is a mellow atmosphere at Moustache's open mic on Wednesday nights.

Ladies love the Moustache

An alternate venue if you dig underground

by Kevin Ehman

"We all know where we don't want to be."

This is the first thing Bruno Wong tells me when I ask him about Moustache (formerly Belles Bar), his first venture into the world of bar management and promotion. "What we ultimately want to offer is an alternative to that."

Wong believes we don't want the standard stereotype that many bars and clubs in Victoria seem to offer: an uptight crowd, Top 40 music and a repetitive theme. After cutting a deal with Syn lounge ownership to ensure financial success—something that had eluded the many managers that preceded him—Wong assumed the lease of the oddly designed bar below Syn on Yates.

Wong sees the space as an opportunity to try something else—to be a place where an attitude of acceptance and inclusiveness is the norm. It all begins, says Wong, with the name, which was thought up by friend and Wednesday night MC Adam Gilmer.

"The name is a reflection of our approach to the bar. We don't want ourselves or anyone else taking things too seriously."

The application of this vision is quite evident upon a visit to Moustache's weekly Wednesday Open Mic Night. When it started in the early summer, it was only attended by eight people, but word of mouth proved to be an effective marketing tool. By the end of August the night was wildly popular, regularly filling the venue to capacity. The diversity of acts and the positive environment have made Open Mic a regular stop for many, the majority of whom are UVic students.

"Just as Lucky, Legends or the Red Jacket cater to a certain crowd, so do we," says Wong. "Everyone is allowed to construct whatever scene they want to present, and we have mainly focused on being something different, somewhere supportive and pressure-free. If that happens to appeal to students, so be it."

Every performer on the packed roster usually has brought a gang of about 10 especially vocal supporters, be it for an introspective acoustic guitar set or a raucous hip-hop throw down. A prime example is the musician whose mother came along for his set and received an enthusiastic round of applause upon her introduction to the crowd by Gilmer. When it's not super lame to bring your mom to the bar, you know you have something unusual on your hands.

Along with the help of friends Gilmer and Jon McMoran (sound guy/de facto DJ), Wong has managed to parlay the success of Wednesday night into a Friday Night Super Phun Dance Party featuring Lucky mainstay DJ Longshanks manning the decks.

"I want the same sincerity and good times from Wednesday to carry over to Friday," says Wong, "Even though the format of the night is different, I still think that we are offering something outside the mainstream that many people, not just students, can appreciate."

On opening night for Super Phun was a couple of weeks ago; the low-light room was packed with sweaty co-eds drinking with purpose. Longshanks spun a set straight out of every music geek's wet dream, mixing everything from Arctic Monkeys to MSTRKRFT to the Eurythmics to Jay Z. Dancing was feverish on the packed floor, but thankfully, large fans had been set up to combat the rising heat, adding to the raw, underground vibe. Staff did a great job for a first night, making the bar seem as if it had been open for months. A far cry from Wednesday when drinking is very casual and the music is relatively quiet, Friday showed itself to be what it promised: a distinctly alternative party in comparison to other clubs on the same night.

If you want to be chill on Wednesday and go to a serious dance party on Friday, Moustache just might be for you. Get down with the get down and go check it out. As Gilmer so eloquently put it, "Anything can happen at the 'Stache."

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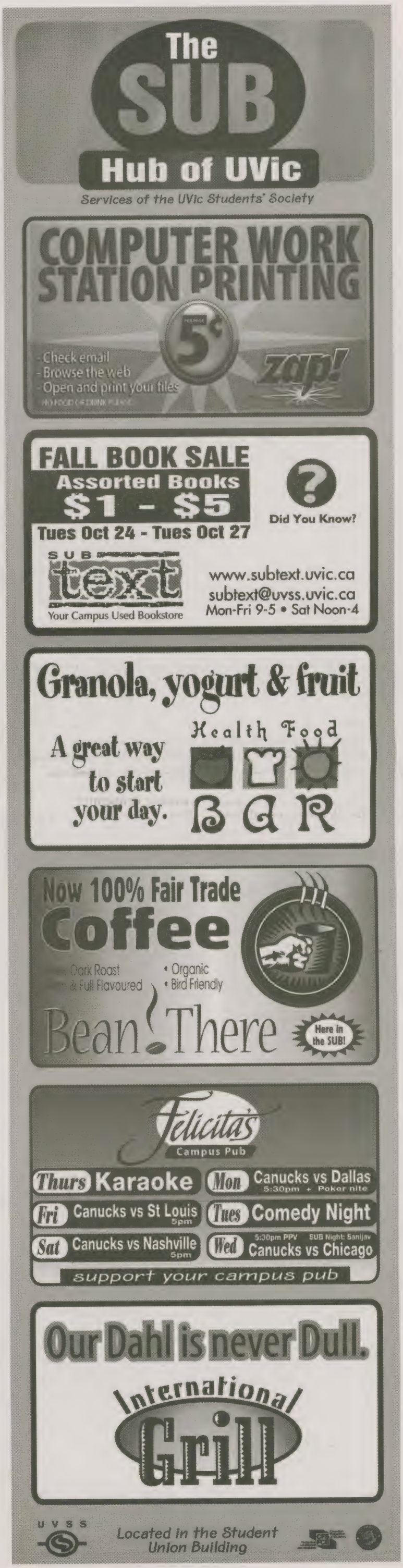

'Foul is fair' at federal penitentiary

WILLIE LI PHOTO

Malcolm (Otto Lang) invades Scotland and takes his rightful place as king in *Macbeth*.

by Laura Cameron

"It's like an escape," said Pat Craig about the theatre program at William Head Penitentiary.

Craig meant his comment figuratively. One inmate, however, attempted to use the 1981 William Head on Stage (WHOS) performance of *Dracula* as a literal escape—he floated away from the oceanside minimum-security prison in the wooden coffin that was used in the production. He was gone for a month, and had another 18 tacked on to his sentence when he was rearrested.

WHOS is an independent not-for-profit theatre company that operates out of William Head Correctional Institution. It was founded in 1981 by a small group of inmates taking a drama course offered by the University of Victoria. Since then, it has evolved into the only inmate-run drama group in North America that has regular public performances.

This year's production of *Macbeth*, which runs until Nov. 4, delivered on its promise to be "an arresting experience." Camaraderie among the actors and intense energy onstage made for the most compelling live performance I have seen.

The sets, designed by director Ian Case, created a post-apocalyptic backdrop to the play. The concrete pillars, manholes and spare tires created the feeling of an industrial ghetto. Actors were dressed in leather boots, kilts and a smattering of military garb. The transformation of Shakespearian characters into futuristic renegades was perfect for this unique interpretation of the Scottish play.

Randy Smith, who played Lennox, reminded me that there is a hex on the play and anyone who mutters the name or the words becomes cursed. Opening the play on Friday the 13th contributed to the eerie mood of the production.

This mood was all but forgotten in my discussion with Smith and Ben Star, who were in good spirits. Smith told me that WHOS is an important part of the rehabilitative process. As a former drug dealer, he applied his networking and marketing skills to dealing with media and sponsorship for the play. Apart from the fun of acting, "it's nice to be able to turn illegal skills into legal, law-abiding, marketable skills," he said. He also told me about a bank robber, who has been involved in WHOS in the past, who said he got the same rush from performing that he did from armed theft.

WHOS typically chooses plays that comment on their state of incarceration. Smith said that the play "parallels us here making poor decisions in our past."

Craig (who prior to playing *Macbeth* only had experience acting as a Sasquatch in a Molson Canadian commercial) said that external influence to commit crimes, like the pressure Lady Macbeth exerted on her husband, was also relevant to the inmates.

Often, the experience of imprisonment and the stereotypes that are faced by convicts can aggravate anti-social behavior. Craig told me "all prison is, is throw a bunch of people in and see how bored you can make them." He said that WHOS relieves the boredom. "It feels like you're not even in prison when you're up there doing the play," he said.

Smith said that with WHOS, "you're really able to step out of the prison atmosphere and the prison mentality and work together on something."

Smith explained the difference between his experience at William Head and Matsqui, the higher security prison he transferred from: "you put on a mask, literally; that's what's nice about here, is you can let it down for a bit and become vulnerable, which is quite the opposite of what it was like at Matsqui, where a sign of weakness could be bad."

Ben Star, who helped build the sets and played Banquo, Young Siward and the Porter, showed his commitment to the play when he sacrificed a conjugal visit with his girlfriend of eight years. Star said that many people didn't benefit from the programs run by Correctional Services, "and then you get something like this that's inmate-run. I'll remember this for the rest of my life. It's been the most unbelievable positive experience I've gone through, and in jail. I can't believe it." He added, "At the same time, it's still a jail; we very much want out of here."

The actors agreed that Peter Abrahams did an excellent job of choreographing the fighting scenes. Getting authorization to use fake swords was one of the hurdles that WHOS had to overcome. In the end, they used aircraft aluminum mock swords that cannot be sharpened.

Smith pointed out it's also frustrating that, "no matter how hard you try, you always die."

Star laughed, "I tell him, when we're going out there, don't run this time; we're gonna do this."

Andy, who worked behind the scenes, came to let us know we had five minutes left. "You have to be out of here by 10:30," he said.

"Or you'll turn into a pumpkin," added Star.

Craig is up for parole in November, and Smith and Star will be released in December and January respectively.

"We're just a bunch of guys who made some bad mistakes," said Smith.

As I was leaving, someone called after me, "Have fun out there."

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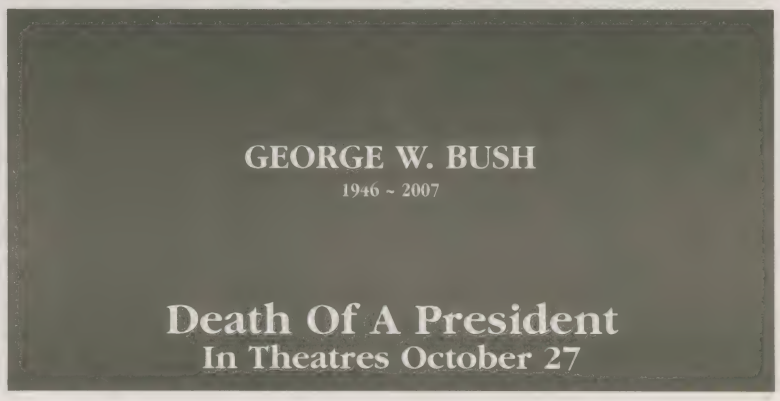

ROMP! PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

Chung is dancing queen

by Sam VanSchie

The Dance Theatre's ninth ROMP! Festival of Independent Dance featured a series of original performances by dancers and choreographers from across B.C.

Emotion-driven movement across a minimally adorned stage was a welcome trend in most shows. Props often took more away from the performance than they offered.

This was the case with the tri-POD Dance Collection, which cluttered the stage with discarded clothing, food and other props, while 10 dancers performed different improv routines to music from a three-piece band. The confusing performance relied heavily on a spoken narrative to pull the randomness together.

Sometimes it's better to leave the audience wondering, to let us find our own sense of meaning in the movements and go home talking about it. Victoria's own Jung-ah Chung achieved this beautifully in her dark piece *Connection*, which might have been about ideals of female beauty or censorship.

If a clear conclusion in a short piece is what the audience wanted, it was provided by Tanya Podlozniuk's *Tantamount Behavior*.

"I'm just going to stop right now," Podloziuk shouted at the audience mid-performance. "Because if I don't stop right now, you aren't going to get it."

Poking fun at dance, popular fitness and perhaps society's demand for understanding, she taught an entertained audience about exotic octopi.

Many of the performances were poorly attended, but dancers engaged the small but generous audience that even clapped for the stage crew.

Butoh-A-Go-Go at ROMP!

Avant-garde dancers perform *In the Red*

by Reanna Alder

Despite a less-than-half-capacity crowd at Metro Studio for their one-night-only performance of *In The Red*, Vancouver's Butoh-A-Go-Go received one of the loudest and longest rounds of applause in the three-day ROMP! Festival of Independent Dance.

The two dancers, Thomas Anfield and Kevin Bergsma, maintained a fierce, glacial intensity throughout the 55-minute performance. Wearing tattered red robes and sumo-style loincloths over a full coat of white body makeup, the performers' movements suggested a series of primal states, often dictated by changes in the soundscape. To the sound of water, they began shivering violently. Physically isolated from each other across the stage, eventually, almost accidentally, they moved as if they sought warmth and the relief of shared suffering. The sound then shifted to children playing. Back to back, they groped for each other's hands overhead with shy determination.

The dancers used their facial expressions as purposefully as their limbs, whether contorted into masks of agony, curiosity, vanity or demonic glee. The movements were supple, almost liquid. The creases of bellies and bums often peeked through tears in the robes.

Butoh is a contemporary Japanese avant-garde art form that emerged after the Second World War. Like Zen Buddhism, it is fascinated with suffering. It may be described as theatrical and meditative, playful and grotesque.

Whether evoking the preening male beauty of a Greek statuary, the prostrated, broken bodies of slaves, the movement of snails, or the frightening cheer of dashboard dolls, Anfield and Bergsma demonstrated the intimacy of performers who have developed absolute trust in their partnership.

At times, however, the dancers' behavioural shifts seemed too directly triggered by the music, as though they had become so engrossed that they missed a cue. And as is so often the case, the audience would have been left eager and wanting more if the show had been 10 minutes shorter.

In one sequence, the dancers made a slow, flailing, prostrated march across the stage. They left a wide trail of white body paint across the black floor, the prints of articulate feet, hands, heads and shoulders where they met the stage. This, and the sweat dripping from the performers' brows, was the only physical trace of Anfield and Bergsma's theatrical journey at the end of the evening.

In The Red was a performance of rare depth and integrity, though not to everyone's taste. It was perhaps a mistake to schedule it as the festival opener. Though other shows played to fuller crowds, after *In the Red* everything else looked too comfortable, too pretty. Nothing else measured up in terms of sheer commitment to each moment of dance.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Butoh is a contemporary Japanese avant-garde art form.

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Music by numbers

Determining the value of albums by The Killers, Emily Haines and the Soft Skeleton, Ladytron, Sonic Youth, Final Fantasy and Buck 65

by Steve Carey

Unwrapping the plastic, popping in a new disc and turning up the stereo begins the mood of an album and a relationship with the listener that can last a lot longer than a few pirated megabytes or a subscription digital radio service ever can.

For your pleasure, here are some CDs evaluated by the price I paid for them versus the whole album experience they provide.

The Killers

Sam's Town
Label: Island
Cost: $9.99
Tracks: 12

Sam's Town is jam-on-toast, sweet synth-pop with the backing narrative of a concept album. Fans and some critics waited with bated breath for this album, but it didn't continue where single-filled *Hot Fuss* left off. It bleeds and breathes heart-pumping Vegas. The dust clouds swirling past Grandma Dixie's trailer on the Fourth of July and the rattle in the backseat at make-out point are told through the lenses of strange inhabitants of this warped Las Vegas.

This CD wins for its combination of its low price concept-album experience, something pop-music rarely pulls off this well.

Emily Haines and the Soft Skeleton

Knives Don't Have Your Back
Label: Last Gang
Cost: $10.99
Tracks: 11

Emily Haines said she wanted to record these songs before they were forgotten and it's a shame; the album feels like something you'd ignore if your microwave was beeping.

Knives Don't Have Your Back is rainy-night music for when you're alone in the house. It's background music for when you're reading a book, but there are no other distractions to prevent the sideways ingestion of Haines' lonesome piano-accompanied songs.

With a price of $10.99, it's not a big dent in the wallet of the morose listener, but the money might better be spent on a more substantial CD on this list.

Ladytron

Witching Hour
Label: Rykodisc
Cost: $12.99
Tracks: 13

On their latest album, Ladytron dips into their good but old way of doing things, catering to their fan base with the repeating line: "If I give you sugar will you give me something illicit and temporary" in "Sugar."

However, *Witching Hour* doesn't rely on the repetitive vocals that might have intrigued the patient fan but bored others like on their last release *Light & Magic.*

Witching Hour is full of absolute-winner singles, including "Destroy Everything" and "International Dateline," but it lacks a whole-album feel—and the singles are available on Ladytron's website. The low price is $12.99 more than you need to pay for the best parts of this album.

Sonic Youth

Rather Ripped
Label: Geffen Records
Cost: $14.99
Tracks: 12

Rather Ripped has a great example of what buying CDs will always have over downloading tracks: the jewel-case booklet is a collection of odd New York photographs with a pair of shots of what four-member Sonic Youth looks like today, now well into their 40s, chubby bellies and NYC art rock still flaming after all these years.

Rather Ripped is Sonic Youth playing it straight with the original lineup and some squeaks and string-scratches thrown in to lull the listener into remembering how awesome they were when they wanted to be.

$14.99 is as cheap as it gets to hear experimental rock history get old and play it safe and acceptable.

Final Fantasy

Has A Good Home
Label: Blocks Blocks Blocks Recording Club
Cost: $16.99
Tracks: 16

The sound of Owen Pallet's violin and keyboard begins in a velour blanket and quickly becomes an imaginary flight. Though clouds mist up the view, little huts, a high school and the ocean can still be spotted below as the wind whips his sun-bleached hair.

For a mere $16.99, one can support a great new Canadian artist and own a lively little album that makes the imagination take a trip around the clouds.

Buck 65

Secret House Against The World
Label: Warner Music Canada
Cost: $22.49
Tracks: 13

Buck 65 is the skills of a Poet Laureate in a skinny white rapper, chewing a toothpick and wearing an argyle nerd sweater. *Secret House Against The World* is a blend of hip-hop-country, mood-swinging between dark, empty themes to danceable and uplifting breakbeat-driven party tracks.

This is experimental hip hop, where piano breakbeats, finger-picking guitar, and drum and bass are just as important as the rustling behind the curtain—the theme behind the song.

Secret House loses the price war as the most expensive CD in the bunch. No matter how artsy and rare it is, Buck 65's heartfelt, disjointed ramblings are not worth $22.49.

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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 9

* means Canadian artist. † means local artist.

1. AKRON/FAMILY
   Meek Warrior (Young God)
2. VARIOUS *
   The CBC Radio 3 Sessions (Mint)
3. VARIOUS
   Eccentric Soul: Mighty Mike Lenaburg (Numero Group)
4. THE BE GOOD TANYAS *
   Hello Love (Nettwerk)
5. VIVA VOCE
   Get Yr Blood Sucked Out (Barsuk)
6. SUBTLE
   For Hero: For Fool (Lex)
7. MY MORNING JACKET
   'Okonokos (ATO/RCA)
8. VARIOUS
   Good God! A Gospel Funk Hymnal (Numero Group)
9. EASY STAR ALL-STARS
   Radiodread (Easy Star)
10. OOIOO
    Taiga (Thrill Jockey)

Hear the weekly top ten on Charts and Graphs every Thursday at 3:00 PM on CFUV 101.9FM.

DOCK CURRIE PHOTO

Vancouver's Pink Mountaintops performed at Sugar last week.

Top psych-rock

by Michelle Martin

Freedom, sex and spirituality resonate from Pink Mountaintops' albums. Stephen McBean proved at a concert at Sugar Nightclub last Saturday that live shows only reinforce this ethos.

With such classic influences as Black Sabbath, The Velvet Underground and Pink Floyd, the psychedelic alt-rock band created a musical experience resembling a good trip. I lost myself in the set and felt generations away from Victoria. The music transported my mind into a world of free love, vices and euphoria.

I was reunited with my inner flower child.

That said, I've never been a Pink Mountaintops fanatic. It's Black Mountain, another band headed by McBean with half of the same members as Pink Mountaintops, that's been playing on my MP3 player for nearly two years.

Both members of the "Black Mountain Army" have unusual gospel influences that distinguish them from most modern music; however, Black Mountain's music tends to be a bit folksier than Pink Mountaintops'.

Black Mountain's self-titled debut became a Jagjaguwar Records bestseller and landed the band an opening spot for Coldplay. Pink Mountaintops' latest release, *Axis of Evol*, was critically acclaimed, yet it never met with comparable commercial success.

I never quite agreed with Uncut Magazine's comparison that "If Black Mountain was the party and the first Pink Mountaintops album was the sex, *Axis of Evol* is the comedown: disturbing, sticky, painful, but absolutely vital."

Axis of Evol, to me, is Black Mountain's album's younger sibling: a little less refined, but with potential for greatness. A sibling that speaks out of turn and sometimes talks a bit of gibberish.

But at the gig, my hesitations about Pink Mountaintops were alleviated—there was beauty in the music's imperfections.

They brilliantly performed my favourites, "Cold Criminals" and "How We Can Get Free."

Sinoia Caves of Black Mountain joined the Pink Mountaintops members in a show that featured funky lighting effects, but not much else in terms of showmanship. It's a good thing, too. I figure a band should satisfy its audience based on musical merit alone.

When the show ended at nearly 2 a.m., over an hour had elapsed. With my time-warped mind lost in such a blissfully melodic space, I could've sworn the whole set took half that time.

Back in reality, I gauged the venue and realized most of the concertgoers had left. Pondering what happened, I summoned some alternative interpretations of the night's events.

A friend criticized the music as boring; another mentioned that McBean looked so unenthused he appeared angry.

I was oblivious to these factors, these interpretations, and I can only comment on my own experience. I experienced a show that, coupled with sleep deprivation and three beers on top of a lingering hangover, produced an overwhelming sense of well-being. Black Mountain has a new rival for space on my MP3 player.

Symphony of death

by Micah Luxen

PROVIDED PHOTO

A scene from F.W. Murnau's 1922 silent film *Nosferatu*.

"From the bloody sins of mankind a creature will be born which will seek revenge for the sin committed.... Whosoever lusts after blood without reason is under his spell, the spell of the vampire Nosferatu." – *Nosferatu*

Eighty-four years after Dracula first appeared on screen, the vampire awoke from his coffin to frighten an entirely new audience. Authentic to the 1922 premier of F.W. Murnau's *Nosferatu*, the Victoria Symphony performed the original score at UVic's Farquhar Auditorium to accompany the silent horror film that was projected onto a screen suspended above the musicians. Film/music scholar Gillian Anderson conducted the symphony, having reconstructed the score in collaboration with James Kessler.

In the early '20s, silent movies were dependant on live performance for sound effects. Indeed, the many musicians who performed *Nosferatu* at UVic intensified the horror of Dracula. While the film itself is aged, each live noise, creak and blow in the performance brought the actions on screen to life.

"It's a whole different experience, watching a film with a live orchestra," said Anderson in an interview following the performance. "Even for people who don't normally go to orchestra, with live orchestra there is an energy in the room, a drama, that is absolutely lacking in a regular film."

The fact that the film is 84 years old did not trivialize the fear intended by the filmmakers. Rather, the crackling screen and ancient actors appeared ghostly, as if from another time and place, from a world of vampires and death.

"Only if a chaste woman can fearlessly make him miss the first crowing of the cock will he disintegrate in the light of dawn," one intertitle reads. Ellen, a woman with a zombie-like appearance and behaviour, offers her life to Nosferatu in order to kill him.

Very few characters survive Dracula, but the film itself has fought the spell of death. *Nosferatu* survived an attempt to destroy the film in 1925, when Bram Stoker's widow successfully sued for copyright infringement. As a result, the court instructed the filmmakers to destroy the negatives and the prints.

But copies of the film were stolen and secretly circulated. Whenever Mrs. Stoker found out about a screening, she would rush to destroy the film. Fortunately, *Nosferatu* would always escape.

Anderson's performance of *Nosferatu* showed to be both timelessly frightening and a work of art. Executing the ancient notes, the Victoria Symphony captured the mood of the 19th century and brought it home to the present.

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OKER CHEN PHOTO

Rowers mingle at UBC's brand new boathouse Oct. 14 while they wait for fog over the Fraser River to dissipate.

Heavy fog delays race

Vikes struggle with makeshift course and reduced team roster

by David Karp

A thick blanket of fog delayed the first annual Head of the Fraser Fours regatta Oct. 14, throwing the Vikes women's varsity rowing team off their game.

A number of UVic rowers decided to return to Victoria instead of waiting out the three-hour delay, forcing coach Rick Crawley to improvise.

"We had to scramble to fill our boats a bit, so our results weren't stellar," said Crawley.

The course was also shortened from five to two kilometres because of the fog.

Despite the setbacks, it was a photo finish. UVic finished in third place, nine-tenths of a second behind the University of British Columbia's (UBC) top boat and seven-tenths of a second behind UBC's second boat.

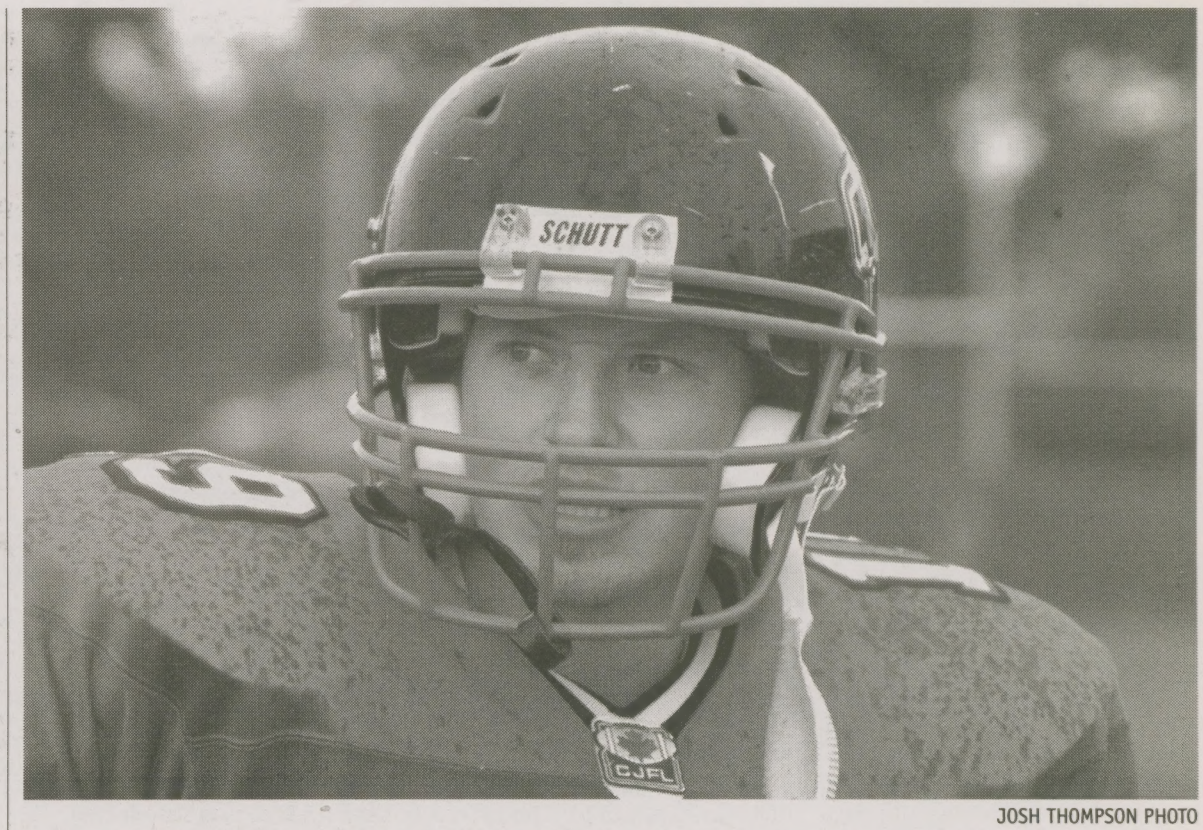
UVic's coach thinks they'll get their revenge later this season.

"I like 'em to think they're right there with us, and then we put our big guns back in and things change," said Crawley.

The men's varsity team didn't compete in the event, but both men's and women's novice teams competed on Oct. 15 in the annual Undergrad Classic, a 500-metre race.

The newbie rowers braved heavy rain to finish respectably. UVic's men won their race, while the two women's boats came second and third in their race.

The events were held at UBC's brand new John M.S. Lecky Boathouse. The $5.8 million facility is located on the Fraser River.



JOSH THOMPSON PHOTO

Victoria Rebels kicker and UVic student Reuben Hoetmer made nine field goals this season.

Hoetmer a kicking asset

by Dock Currie

The rain pours, the ground dissolves into an intractable mush, and there stands Victoria Rebels kicker Reuben Hoetmer in the centre of Royal Athletic Park, completely drenched, a beaming smile on his face.

It was halftime with the Rebels up 13-0 against the Abbotsford Air Force in the last regular season game, upon which the last spot in the B.C. Football Conference (BCFC) playoffs was riding. Hoetmer's smile was justified as the Rebels won 35-7 against the Air Force, clinching a playoff spot.

But Hoetmer isn't just the starting kicker for the local football club—he's also a visiting student to UVic from the University of Alberta (U of A).

Now in his fourth year of a general science major, he plans on graduating as soon as possible.

Hoetmer spent two seasons with the U of A Golden Bears while hard at work on his degree in Edmonton. He opted to join the Rebels to keep sharp while studying at UVic.

"The Rebels team is a lot younger," Hoetmer said, speaking of the comparison between the Rebels and the Golden Bears. "There's a lot of talented people here, though, that could be playing for universities in a couple of years, and a few that will be playing for universities in a couple of years."

But when comparing UVic and U of A, Hoetmer was less sure.

"I really like the campus," he said. "If only the U of A was as pretty as UVic."

He noted that UVic would be well advised to have a football team for themselves, adding that both the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University have varsity football teams.

So, is a career in football in the cards for Reuben Hoetmer? Well, he doesn't know, but he isn't discounting the possibility.

"If it's feasible I'd love to, but to be honest—well, who knows? I think I've got a shot."

Now that Hoetmer and the Rebels have beaten the Abbotsford Air Force—which wasn't easy, considering the Air Force had rallied from a 28-3 deficit to beat Victoria in a game last month—they'll face the Vancouver Island Raiders in the first round of the playoffs. The winner of that match faces the winner of the Okanagan Sun and the Big Kahuna Rams for the BCFC championship.

It's no surprise to Rebels coach Paul Orazietti that Hoetmer helped lead them to the playoffs.

"He should have been all-star kicker for the league," said Orazietti. "It's a very political process."

While Hoetmer had outstanding stats, the award went to former Rebel Scott Dixon, now with the Vancouver Island Raiders. Expect a battle of the kickers when the playoffs open next week in Nanaimo.

Hoetmer says he enjoys UVic in spite of its not having a football team. But it seems that while you can take the boy out of Alberta, you can't take the Alberta out of the boy. Just before darting off to start the second half, he mentioned, with that characteristic smile, his take on the UVic wildlife.

"I'm from a farm back in Alberta where me and my little brother go rabbit hunting in our neighbour's bushes, so I always tell him he should come out to UVic and we'd have a great time."

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Vikes smash UCFV but fall to Trinity Western

by Wayne Potoroka

The UVic men's soccer alumni were on hand Oct. 15 to watch third-year defender Colin Wilson score his first two goals after three years in a Vikes jersey.

Colin's performance pushed the Vikes past the University College of Fraser Valley (UCFV) Cascades to a 4-1 win in the first of two weekend games at Centennial Stadium.

Colin found the net in the 16th minute and rifled home his second goal 30 minutes from time.

"Feels good to get my first goals for the Vikes after three years," said Colin. "I push up for corners and free kicks so I do get a lot of chances. It was good to capitalize today on those two."

Set-piece specialist Matt Wilson assisted on both of Colin's goals. As a left-footer, Matt's dead-ball deliveries from the right side of the field curled perfectly into the path of the six-foot-two Colin.

"That's how we play it: bending it in and getting our tall guys on the ball," said Matt.

Cole McFarlane, who scored his fifth goal in the win, said having two dozen of the old guard at the game, as part of alumni weekend, was an incentive to perform.

"We were fired up," said McFarlane. "Everything seemed to go right for us today."

This is the Cascades' first year playing in Canadian Interuniversity Sport, and according to their coach Alan Errington, the team needs more work before they'll be competitive.

"It's going to be a few years' development to get where we want to be," said Errington. "The league is certainly a bit stronger and faster than what we've been used to."

The Vikes were unlucky with their 2-1 loss to the Trinity Western University (TWU) Spartans Oct. 16.

Field conditions played an important role in the game. All-night rain soaked the pitch, resulting in a lively turf and uncertain bounces, said rookie Vikes keeper Dan Kilpatrick.

"This is probably the hardest surface to play on," said Kilpatrick. "Your gloves get wet and the ball comes in skipping and changing directions pretty quickly. You've got to react."

UVic captain Kyle Finner said the wet ground was to blame for TWU's first point: a Peter Richmond own-goal in the 16th minute.

"The ball skipped in and ricocheted off [Richmond] and into the net," said Finner. "It wasn't his fault. He didn't even see the ball coming, it came so fast."

At the other end of the field, Spartans keeper Adam Alvaro had the extra challenge of dealing with an aggressive Vikes offence hungry for a second goal. With four minutes remaining in the game, Finner clattered into Alvaro while looking for the equalizer. The knock forced Alvaro out of the game.

"It was clean," said Alvaro. "He came in for the ball and got me right on the kneecap. It was a stinger.

"At first I thought I had broken my leg, to be honest," he added. "I've never been in that much pain."

UVic coach Bruce Wilson said the Vikes deserved at least a draw for their efforts. TWU coach Al Alderson, who received his master's degree from UVic in 1993, agreed with him.

"They're unlucky to not come out of it with at least a tie," said Alderson, "and we're pretty lucky to be going home with the win."

If nothing else, coach Wilson will be taking away some lessons from the game.

"We've had a good look at a few people off the bench," said Wilson. "We're going to be building towards next year."

UVic heads to Saskatoon and Edmonton before their next home game against the University of Calgary on Oct. 28.

WAYNE POTOROKA PHOTO

The Vikes have a chat before their 2-1 loss to Trinity Western.

Vikes Scoreboard

Women's Field Hockey

Oct. 15 UVic 1 UBC 0
Oct. 14 UVic 6 Calgary 0
Oct. 13 UVic 1 Alberta 0

Men's Basketball

Oct. 15 Carleton 76 UVic 71
Oct. 14 UVic 88 UNB 69
Oct. 13 Windsor 75 UVic 69

Men's Soccer

Oct. 15 TWU 2 UVic 1
Oct. 14 UVic 4 UCFV 1

Women's Soccer

Oct. 15 UVic 6 Manitoba 1
Oct. 14 UVic 6 Regina 0

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AustraLearn Info Session: Learn about study and internship opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. October 30, 2006. Representatives from other Australian universities will talk about graduate options in Australia. Location: Clearihue A207 Time: 3:30 p.m. RSVP: please rsvp for these sessions at: http://www.careerservices.uvic.ca/events

Thursday October 26, 6 p.m. Peter Sankoff on Animal Rights Laws in New Zealand and what we can learn from them. Presented by the UVic chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. Room 158 Fraser Building, UVic, with a reception to follow. Info: rachelsqf@gmail.com

The Environmental Law Club has many upcoming events in October and throughout the year. Please visit www.elc.uvic.ca/club for details on speakers, activities and campaigns as they become available. Thank you. rachelsqf@gmail.com

Pacific Peoples' Partnership takes you on a journey through the senses with Indigenous Journeys: An Exploration of Indigenous Wine & First Nations Fashion, taking place October 24, 5:30 p.m. at the UVic Grad Centre, University of Victoria

The Malahat Review in association with The Greater Victoria Public Library invites book lovers everywhere to its annual Fall Literary Gala on Saturday, 8 p.m., October 28, 2006 at the Fran Willis Gallery in downtown Victoria. Come hear the City of Victoria's Inaugural Poet Laureate Carla Funk, fiction writer Pauline Holdstock of Sidney, and poet Linda Rogers of Victoria.

ISLAMOPHOBIA: WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO FIGHT IT Please join this important panel discussion featuring: Mr. Younas Mirza, a concerned member of Victoria's Muslim community; and Ms. Michelle Robidoux, anti-war activist from Toronto and a leading member of the International Socialists. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7:30 p.m. IN THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA'S STUDENT UNION BUILDING, ROOM 110b (off the Upper Lounge). For further information call 385-3934.

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"Throw Us A Line Improv"
Wednesdays 8:30 p.m. Soprano's Karaoke Bar, NO COVER

Ready?! Explore the joys of dancing in contact with others. Contact Improv Dance Intensive with Martin Keogh. All levels! November 22-26. Register by October 25: $300. After: $350. Questions? Helen: 479-6633, tchelen@gmail.com

Building Better Relationships - Free workshops in Oct and Nov on Tues. and Thurs. evenings, 7 to 9 at Dispute Resolution Centre, 108-1218 Wharf Street. Topics include Healthy Communications, Strong Emotions, Conflict Management and Successful Co-Parenting. Call 386-4331 to register.

Roxxylde performing October 27, 2006. Royal Canadian Legion, 716 Station Ave. Langford. Come celebrate Halloween, costume prizes, 50/50 draw, silent auction. $12 in advance, $15 at the door. cdbasso@shaw.ca or racheldj@uvic.ca

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Cool Aid Society is hosting a Volunteer Open House on Friday, October 20, from 5-6:30 p.m., at the Downtown Community Activity Centre, 755 Pandora Avenue. We invite you to drop by for a short visit after work to learn about Cool Aid and the Homeless Needs Survey. For more information call 414-4786 or visit www.Coolaid.org

UVIC PRIDE VOLUNTEERS!
Meet fun folk, help out in the community, compare fashionable frippery. Staff the office, mosey to events, or just join the list serve. uvicpride@uvss.uvic.ca
Notice to students in Education, Geography or Biology: Excellent volunteer opportunities at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. For more details email Joan at: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca

September is Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month! There are 179 people in the Vancouver Island region who are registered with Muscular Dystrophy Canada (MDC). By printing the PSA in your publication, you are supporting the people in your community who have neuromuscular disorders. Your local Vancouver Island MDC Chapter will be organizing community fundraisers to raise money for research, equipment, and services for people living with neuromuscular disorders. Please support them. 1.866.MUSCLE.8, www.muscle.ca

CUTS FOR A CURE—Help raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society. On the Fringe Hair Design is holding a cut-a-thon on Sunday Oct. 22 from 10-2 p.m. Come get your haircut for a minimum donation of $10. All proceeds go to the Canadian Cancer Society.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost on campus: small silver turtle earring on shepherd's hook; great sentimental value. If found, please call 721-8815 or email perkinsp@uvic.ca

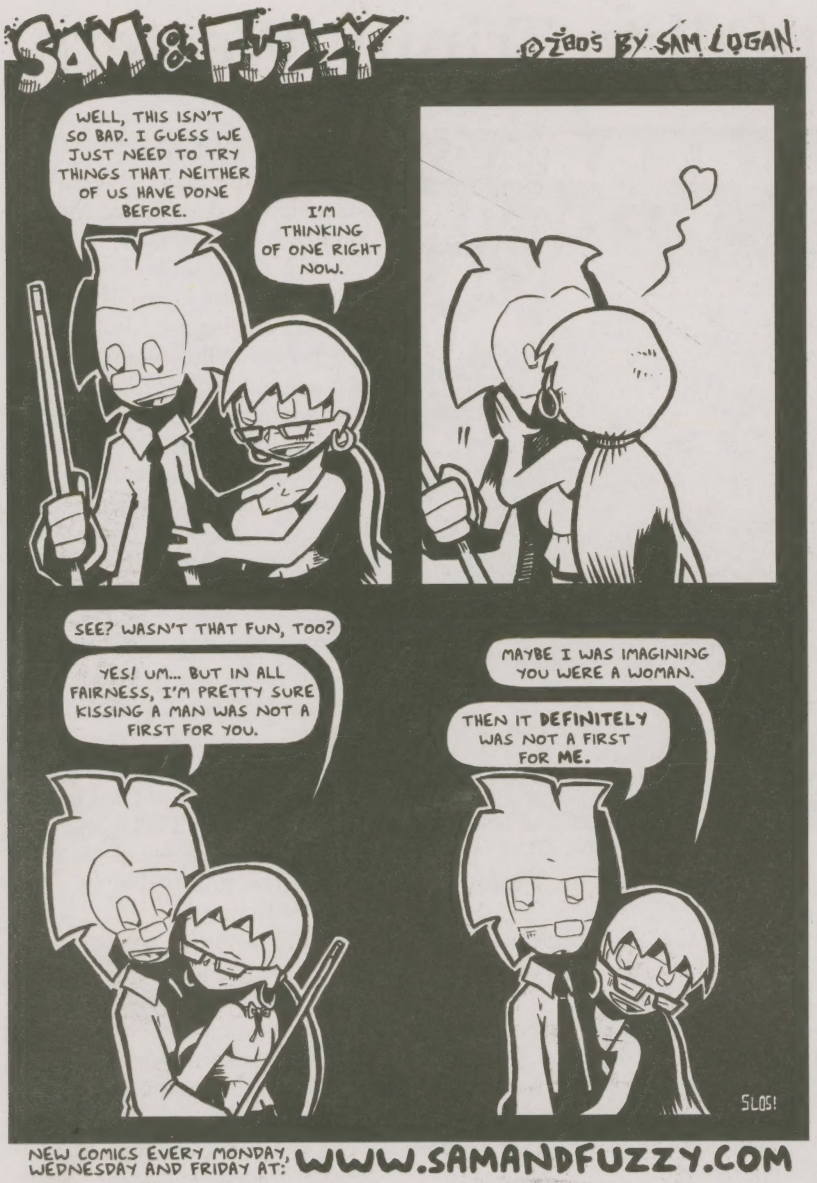
HEY YOU

To the werecat who hangs around Mystic Vale: That's twice in the last year you've been sighted; are you trying to get yourself killed? Come change at my place anytime --Felix.

Don't go shaking your shit at me then wonder why I'm turned on.

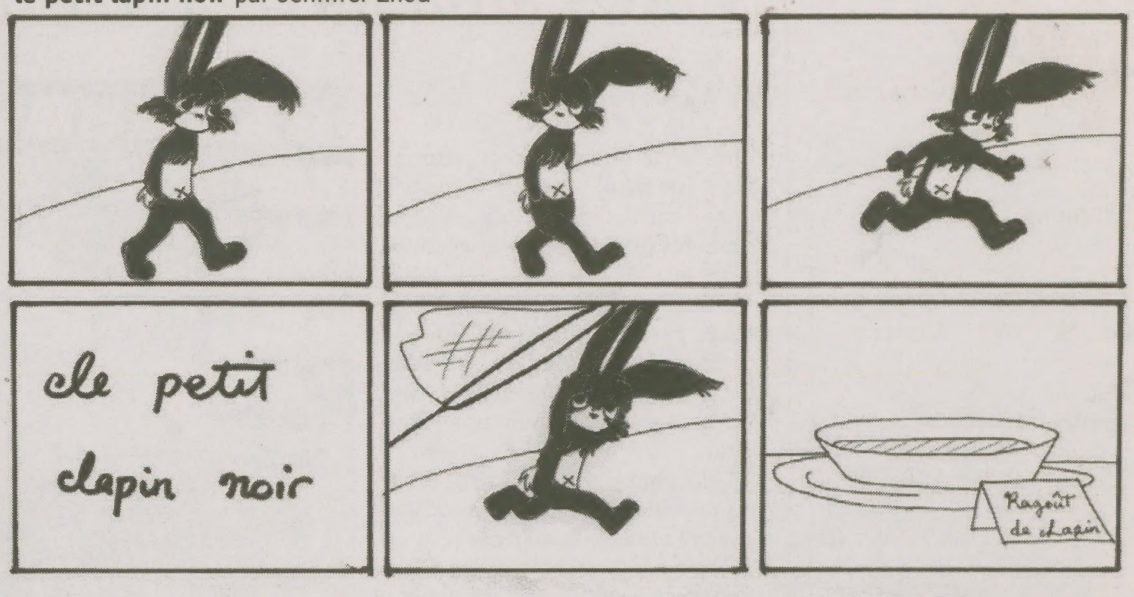
CLASSIFIED RATES

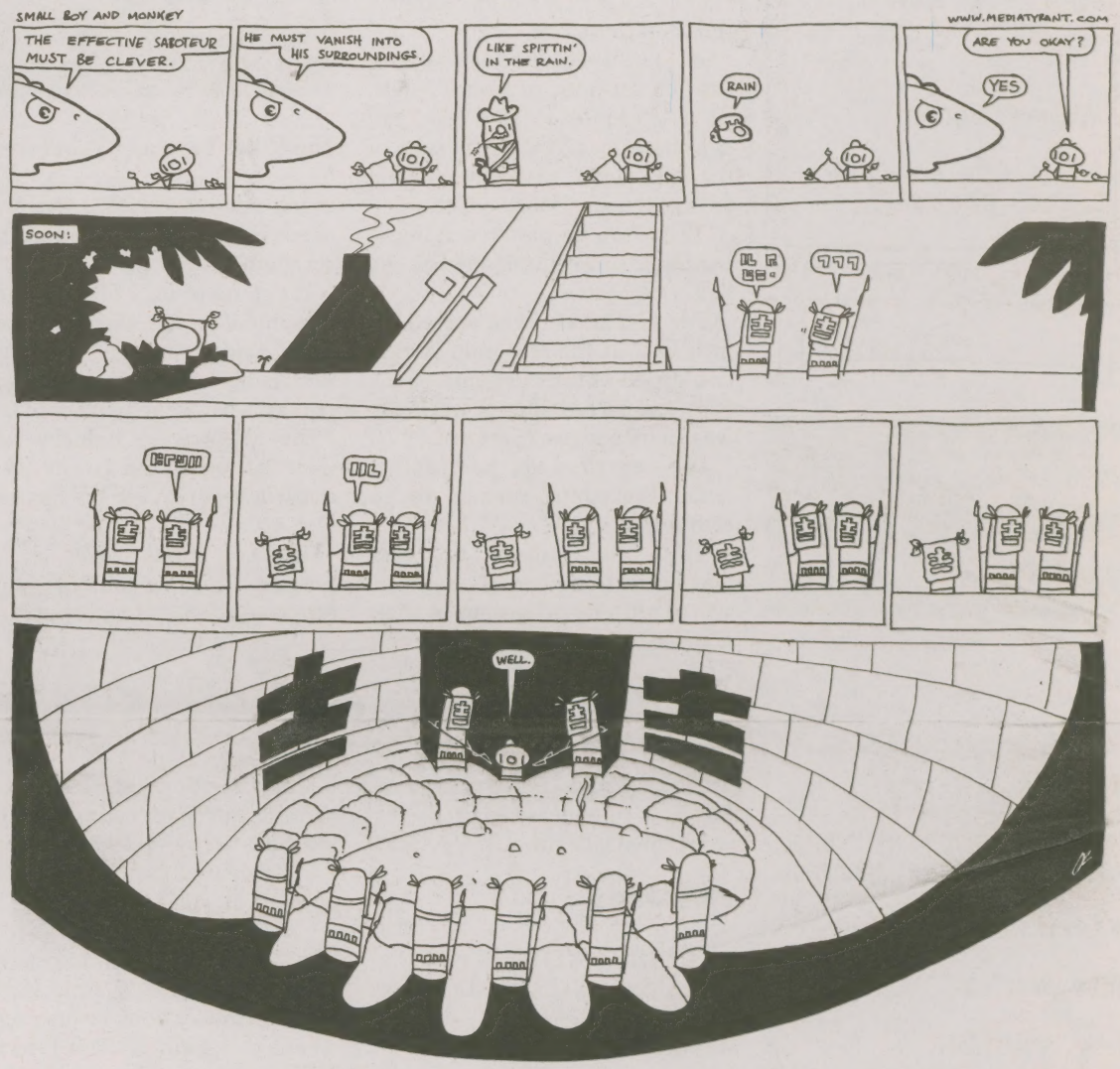
Businesses: $6/line
Non-students: $2/line
Students & clubs: $2/issue
Hey You: Free!


SAM & FUZZY
©2006 BY SAM LOGAN.
WELL, THIS ISN'T SO BAD. I GUESS WE JUST NEED TO TRY THINGS THAT NEITHER OF US HAVE DONE BEFORE.
I'M THINKING OF ONE RIGHT NOW.
SEE? WASN'T THAT FUN, TOO?
YES! UM... BUT IN ALL FAIRNESS, I'M PRETTY SURE KISSING A MAN WAS NOT A FIRST FOR YOU.
MAYBE I WAS IMAGINING YOU WERE A WOMAN.
THEN IT DEFINITELY WAS NOT A FIRST FOR ME.
SLOS!

NEW COMICS EVERY MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT: **WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM**

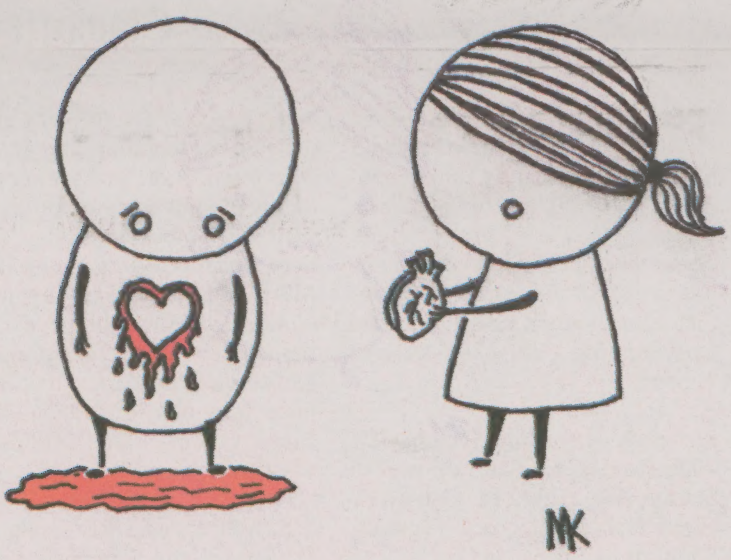
le petit lapin noir par Jennifer Zhou



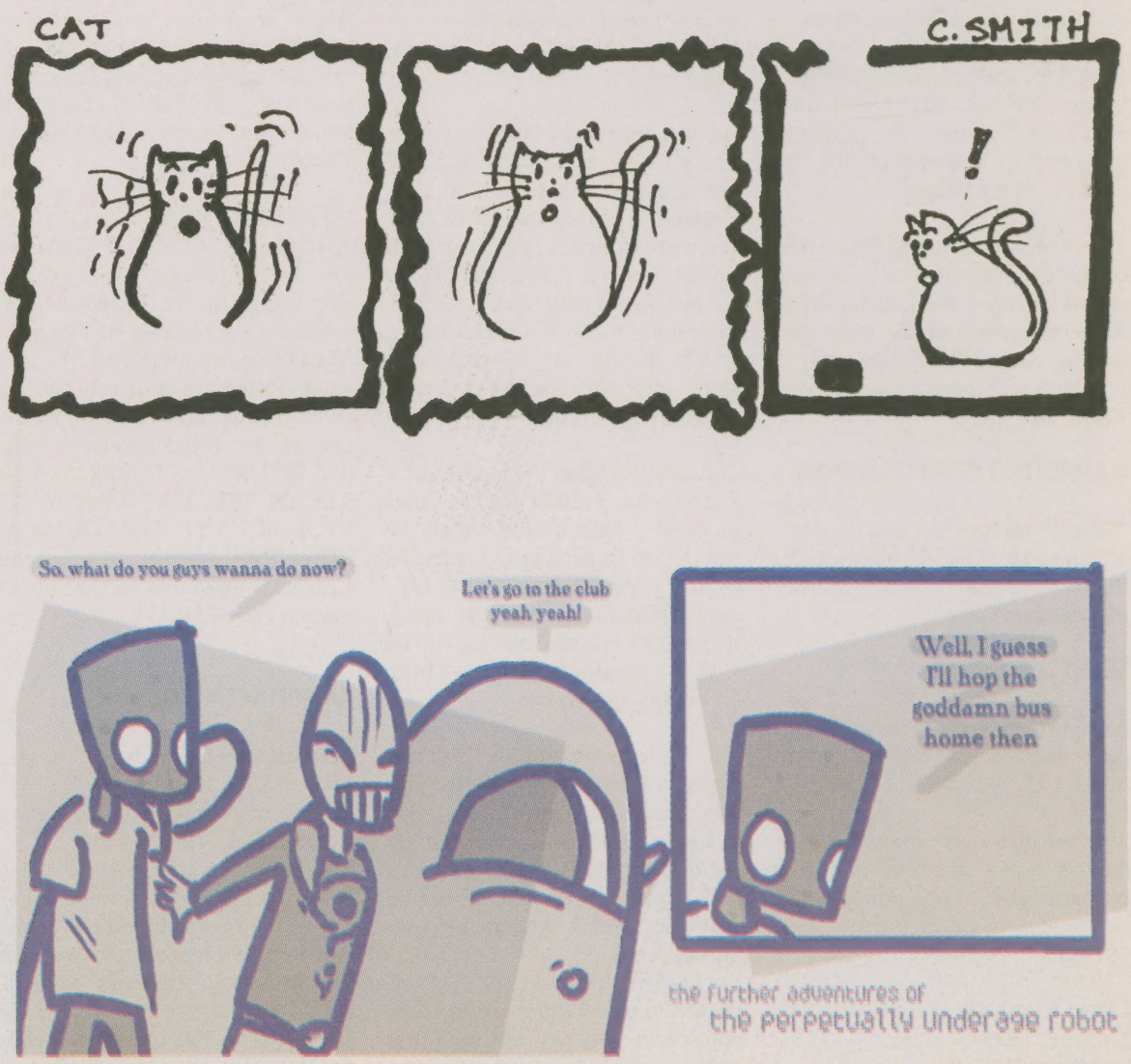


MeiCom

you can't give it back



Spenceritis by Spencer Kelly



So what do you guys wanna do now?
Let's go to the club yeah yeah!
Well, I guess I'll hop the goddamn bus home then
the further adventures of
the perpetually underage robot

by TK Longmire